

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2022

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 1 November 2022 at 1.00pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Mr J Docherty, Church 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, Ms M McCabe (for Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance), Ms A Sinclair (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Interim Head of Property Services, Libraries, Educational Development & Arts Manager, Mr A Stephenson, Ms Y Gallacher and Mr L Reilly (Education Services), Ms D Sweeney, Ms L Carrick and Ms K MacVey (Legal & Democratic Services), and Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors McGuire and Moran attending by video-conference.

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

499 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

499

No apologies for absence were intimated.

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 – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2022) – Councillor Law

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) – Councillor Law

Agenda Item 4 (Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives) – Councillor Robertson

Agenda Item 5 (Gourock Burgh Coat of Arms Proposals) – Councillor Moran

Agenda Item 6 (Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review and 2023/25 Funding Shortfall) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 7 (Community Grants Fund 2022/23 – Round 1) – Councillor Robertson

500 Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2022

500

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Communities Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2022.

Councillor Law declared a connection as she is a registered volunteer archiver with the Watt Institution. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2022

item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £58,000 as at 31 August 2022 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service will continue to review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced in order to alleviate the projected overspend; and
- (3) that it be remitted to officers to submit a report to the next meeting of the Committee detailing the costing implications and timescales of installing a donations terminal at the Watt Institution in order to raise additional revenue.

501 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items

501

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.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a family member is involved with Caddlehill Community Gardens. She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2022/25 Capital Programme be noted;
- (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) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (e) Community Hub King George VI, (f) Craigend Resource Centre, (g) Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, (h) Parklea Branching Out and (i) Asset Transfer Working Group;
- (3) that it be noted that the proposed tennis facility will be considered as part of the Council's overall budget process; and
- (4) that it remitted to officers to arrange an All Members Briefing on Community Asset Transfers.

502 Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives

502

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

Councillor Robertson declared connections as (1) Chair of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos), and (2) Chair of Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare. She also formed the view that the nature of her connections and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Culture Collective, (b) Historic Links to Slavery, (c) Lend and Mend Hubs, (d) Community Safety, (e) the summer programmes of Active Schools, Youth Services, Family Learning and Affordable Childcare, (f) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report 2021/22, (g) Free Swimming for Under 16s, (h) Governance of External Organisations, and (i) 'Warm Hand of Friendship'; and
- (2) that it be agreed that proposals for Free Swimming for Under 16s from 2023 be considered as part of the Council's budget process.

503 Gourock Burgh Coat of Arms Proposals**503**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the progress of proposals from the Inverclyde's Historical Links to Slavery Working Group in relation to the Gourock Burgh coat of arms, (2) making recommendations for the removal, covering or production of additional information in various locations where the coat of arms is situated, and (3) seeking approval for further community engagement on this matter.

Councillor Moran declared a connection as a former patron of the Dardanelles Window Fundraising Committee. 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.

Decided:

- (1) that the removal of the figure and hand and the blanking of the fascia of the coat of arms above the entrance to the Gourock Municipal Buildings be agreed;
- (2) that the removal of the acrylic panes containing the coat of arms and the temporary replacement of these with plain acrylic on the Provost's Lamp Post on Shore Street, Gourock be agreed;
- (3) that the removal of the coat of arms from the side entrance to the Gamble Halls and from the top of the pavilion at Gourock Park be agreed;
- (4) that the Committee (a) acknowledges and thanks the Dardanelles Memorial Fund Committee for the fundraising efforts and commission of the Dardanelles Memorial Window in the Watt Institution, and (b) agree that, at the request of the Dardanelles Memorial Fund Committee, the Dardanelles Memorial Window be removed and returned to the Dardanelles Memorial Fund Committee;
- (5) that it be agreed to leave the coat of arms on the Gourock War Memorial as there is no figure in this version;
- (6) that it be remitted to officers to investigate the feasibility of creating a new coat of arms for the Gourock area; and
- (7) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development to engage with the responsible bodies for other instances of the coat of arms in the Inverclyde area, in the terms as detailed in appendix 3 to the report.

504 Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review and 2023/25 Funding Shortfall**504**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) appending a copy of the Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review, (2) providing information on the estimated £1.46million 2023/24 Budget Pressure and proposals for managing this, and (3) acknowledging that Inverclyde Leisure (IL) cannot continue to deliver all of the services for the Council for the current management fee it receives.

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.

Prior to discussion of this item the Convenor referred to the recent closure of Port Glasgow Swimming Pool and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Interim Head of Property Services provided a verbal update on the closure and the significant corrosion found on columns within the pool area.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2022

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and associated appendices be noted;
- (2) that appendix 1, which summarises how the estimated £1.46million funding pressure for IL has arisen, be noted;
- (3) that it be noted that IL and Inverclyde Council have commenced a trawl of their employees in preparation for any reduction in service;
- (4) that the one-off costs which may require to be met by the Council via both the reduction in IL employees and leisure/community facilities be noted; and
- (5) that it be noted that further specific savings proposal options are currently being devised and once the proposals are approved they will be subject to wider consultation after Christmas and be part of the budget setting process.

505 Community Grants Fund 2022/23 – Round 1**505**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the grants awarded to voluntary and community organisations by the Grants Sub-Committee as part of round 1 of the Community Grants Fund 2022/23.

Councillor Robertson declared a connection as Chair of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos). She also formed the view that the nature of her connection and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the meeting or her participation in the decision-making process and was declaring for transparency.

Decided: that the level of funding allocated to the organisations, as detailed in the appendix to the report, by the Grants Sub-Committee 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 appendices 1, 3a and 3b to Agenda Item 6 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

506 Appendices 1, 3a and 3b relative to Agenda Item 6 providing additional information on the Inverclyde Leisure Strategic Asset Review**506**

There was submitted additional conditions relative to Agenda Item 6.

Decided: that the additional appendices be noted.

The Communities business concluded at 2.20pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan joining the meeting by video conference and Mr Docherty attending the Municipal Buildings.

Prior to commencement of the Education business the Convenor welcomed Ms McCredie, the Headteacher of Kilmacolm Primary School, Ms Goodfellow, the Depute Head Teacher of St Columba's High School, and three pupils from each school to the meeting.

507 Presentation - Work Schools are Undertaking on Eco Initiatives**507**

The Committee heard a presentation given by pupils from Kilmacolm Primary School and St Columba's High School on various eco initiatives which their schools have undertaken. Thereafter the pupils answered a number of questions from Members.

On behalf of the Committee, the Convenor thanked the pupils and Education staff for

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2022

attending the meeting and for the work undertaken on the eco initiatives detailed in their presentation.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

508 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2022 508

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend for the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget of £33,000 as at 31 August 2022 be noted;
- (2) that the proposed virement of £23,490, as detailed in appendix 5, from the Education Committee to the Policy & Resources Committee to fund increasing the hours of the Communications Team Leader be approved; and
- (3) that the (a) projected overall overspend of £25,000 between Education and Communities, and (b) potential income stream relating to New Scots identified in paragraph 5.2 of the report be noted.

509 Education Capital Programme 2022/25 - Progress 509

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) Gourrock Primary School extension, (b) general lifecycle works, and (c) 1140 Hours Expansion – various establishments minor works.

510 Education and Communities Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan Progress Report 2022/23 510

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) a progress report on the delivery of the improvement actions within the Education, Communities and Organisation Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan, and (2) a refreshed Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2022/23.

Decided: that the progress made in delivery of the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2022/23 be noted.

511 Education Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives 511

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.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the updates on the following be noted (a) The National Discussion about

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 1 NOVEMBER 2022

education, (b) Gaelic medium secondary education, (c) early years governance of funded providers – private, voluntary and independent, (d) Glasgow City Region Education Committee held on 22 September 2022, and (e) Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) refresh.

512 School Term Dates – Session 2023/2024 512

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for setting the school terms dates for session 2023/2024.

Decided: that the school terms dates for 2022/2023, as detailed in appendix 1 and 2 of the report, be approved.

513 Additional Support for Learning Policy 513

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the new Additional Support for Learning Policy which brings together current policies, guidance and resources into one overarching policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the Additional Support for Learning Policy be approved; and
- (2) that the Committee's thanks be extended to all officers involved in the creation of the Additional Support for Learning Policy.

514 Setting a Sustainable Rate for Early Learning and Childcare Partner Providers 514

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement for an increase to the hourly rate paid to funded providers for the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC).

Decided:

- (1) that an increase to the hourly rate paid to all Early Years Funded Providers, including Childminders, from the current rate of £5.31 per child to £5.69 per child be approved;
- (2) that it be agreed that the new rate will be backdated from 18 August 2022; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the rate will be implemented for all eligible children, aged two to five years, who are accessing ELC within a funded provider setting.

515 Inverclyde Wellbeing Service – Annual Governance Report 2021/22 515

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the annual governance report for 2021/22 from Action for Children, the providers of the Inverclyde Wellbeing Service.

Decided: that the contents of the report and the annual governance report for 2021/22 be noted.