

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson, Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives, and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Interim Head of Property Services
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities) (for Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Susan Chambers	Head Teacher, Inverclyde Virtual School
Yvonne Gallacher	Manager, Education Services
Mark Coyle	Project Leader, Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Member' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

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

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

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

144

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Armstrong, with Councillor Reynolds substituting.

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 December 2022) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Reynolds.

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

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

Agenda Item 5 (Free Swimming for Under 16s) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

Reynolds.

Agenda Item 13 (Appendix relative to Agenda Item 5 providing additional information on the proposed Under 16 Free Swimming Policy) - Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Reynolds.

145 **Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 December 2022** 145

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 December 2022.

Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Reynolds declared connections 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: that (a) the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £15,000 as at 31 December 2022 be noted, and (b) it be noted that this overspend is more than offset by a projected underspend on the Education side of the Committee.

146 **Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items** 146

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) 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, and Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Reynolds declared connections 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 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) the Asset Transfer Working Group; and

(3) that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Committee to the Lady Alice Bowling Club Committee and all Council officers connected with the work which has recently commenced at the club.

147 **Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives** 147

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, Quinn and Reynolds declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

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.

The Corporate Director advised the Committee of a typographical error in the report, and accordingly the second recommendation should read 'agrees to increasing the cost of school lets and pitch hire by 5% for 2023/24'.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Early Adopter Afterschool Service, (b) Warm Spaces (Warm Hand of Friendship Funding), (c) Whole School Community Approach to Substance Use Project, (d) Community Food Growing Strategy, (e) supporting Participatory Budgeting, (f) libraries success, (g) implications for CLD from budget setting process, and (h) annual increase in the cost of pitch hire; and
- (2) that an increase in the cost of school lets and pitch hire by 5% for 2023/24 be agreed.

148 Free Swimming for Under 16s

148

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking the agreement of the Committee for a proposed Under 16s Free Swimming Policy.

Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Reynolds declared connections 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 provision of swimming during the Easter, Summer and October school holidays and early bird slots for the weekends, as detailed at paragraph 4.2 of the report, be agreed;
- (2) that the virement from CLD employee costs to the free swimming budget, as detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report, be agreed, this being subject to the Policy & Resources Committee agreeing to fund the one-off early release costs connected with the removal of a post from the Youth Work and Sports Team, as detailed in the private appendix to this item which forms agenda item 13; and
- (3) that (a) it be agreed that the Council return to a fixed fee payment to Inverclyde Leisure for the provision of swimming as detailed at paragraph 4.2 of the report, in order to give greater financial certainty to the Council, and (b) it be noted that Inverclyde Leisure will continue to gather and share uptake data.

149 Appendix relative to Agenda Item 5 providing additional information on the proposed Under 16 Free Swimming Policy

149

There was submitted an appendix relative to agenda item 5 providing additional information on the proposed Under 16 Free Swimming Policy.

Decided: that the additional appendix be noted.

150 Community Safety Update

150

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with an update on strategic matters pertaining to Community Safety in Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Inverclyde Multi-agency Risk

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

Assessment, (b) Inverclyde Sex Offender Liaison Officer, (c) Police Scotland Local Partnership and Initiative Fund – Friday night youth project, (d) Community Safety and Violence Against Women Strategy 2023-2026, and (e) Control the Bleed kit public access cabinet; and

(2) that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Committee to the emergency response services involved in a number of recent incidents which have occurred locally.

The Communities business concluded at 3.20pm. 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.

151 Presentation on The Promise and Virtual Schools 151

The Committee heard a presentation given by Susan Chambers, Head Teacher of Inverclyde Virtual School, on The Promise and Virtual Schools. Thereafter Ms Chambers, the Head of Education and the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

(1) that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Committee to Ms Chambers and all staff connected with The Promise and Virtual Schools; and

(2) that the presentation be noted.

The Committee adjourned at 4.50pm and reconvened at 5pm.

152 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 December 2022 152

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 December 2022.

Decided: that the current projected underspend for 2022/23 of £543,000 as at 31 December 2022 be noted.

153 Education Capital Programme 2022/25 - Progress 153

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.

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, (c) free school meals, and (d) 1140 Hours expansion – various establishments minor works.

154 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 154

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

Decided:

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

(1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes, (b) exceptional closure – King’s Coronation Public Holiday May 2023, (c) Education Authority Equality Mainstreaming Report 2023 and progress on Education Equality Outcomes Improvement Plan 2021/25, (d) education reform update, and (e) recent announcement from the Scottish Government on the maintenance of the pupil week and teacher numbers;

(2) that it be noted that a further report will be brought to the next Education & Communities Committee on the implications of the requirement to maintain teacher and pupil support assistant numbers for Inverclyde; and

(3) that it be remitted to the Convenor to write to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee on the maintenance of the pupil week and teacher numbers.

155 **Scottish Attainment Challenge Refresh Year 1 Plan 2022/23 Update** 155

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress relating to the first year of the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme within Inverclyde.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.

156 **1140 Budget Update – Grant Reduction** 156

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on (1) the grant funding of the 1140 hours programme, and (2) the work undertaken to contain the 2022/23 pay award and manage the grant reduction, which also forms part of the Inverclyde Council budget setting process.

Decided:

(1) that the content of the report be noted;

(2) that (a) the recommendations, as detailed at section 4 and appendix 1 of the report, be noted, and (b) it be noted that these recommendations were considered by Inverclyde Council at its meeting on 2 March 2023 as part of the budget process; and

(3) that it be noted that the Chief Executive has agreed, through Delegated Powers, to commence a trawl of 52-week Early Years Education & Child Care Officers on the basis that the proposals in the report are supported.