

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9 MAY 2023**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 2pm**

**Present:** Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McCabe (for McGuire for Education business only), McCluskey (for McGuire for Communities business only), McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Mr J Docherty, Church Representative, 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)
Lauren O'Hagan	Head Teacher, Newark Primary School
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor, Legal Services
George Barbour	Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, Law, McCabe and Wilson attending remotely.

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

**278      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      278**

Apologies for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire, with Councillor McCluskey substituting for Communities business and Councillor McCabe substituting for Education business, Rev D Burt and Rev F Donaldson.

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

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

**279      Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 28 February 2023      279**

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Communities Revenue Budget position at 28 February 2023.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current projected underspend for 2022/23 Communities Revenue Budget of £27,000 as at 28 February 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that the £25,000 virement, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 and appendix 5 of the report, be approved.

### 280 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 280

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer 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.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current position of the 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Lady Alice Bowling Club, (b) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (c) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (d) Community Hub King George VI, (e) Craigend Resource Centre, (f) Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, (g) Parklea Branching Out, and (h) the Asset Transfer Working Group; and
- (3) that the Committee notes the position with the Parklea Branching Out project, and the approval of funding from the Reserves allocation held by the Policy & Resources Committee, as detailed at paragraph 3.11 of the report.

### 281 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 281

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 as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillors McCluskey and Robertson declared connections as members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. 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) review of schools catering, (b) Inverclyde Libraries Service, (c) Cultural Services, (d) Meliora 2023, (e) Warm Hand of Friendship Grants, and (f) Inverclyde Leisure's Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

### 282 Partnership Agreement with SportScotland 282

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking (1) Committee approval for a further four-year partnership agreement with SportScotland to fund the Active Schools and Community Sports Hub provision locally, and (2) to confirm the Council's financial commitment to this.

**Decided:**

- (1) that a new Partnership Agreement between Inverclyde Council and SportScotland over the period April 2023 to March 2027 be approved; and
- (2) that approval be given to the continued financial contribution for the duration of

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the Partnership Agreement and that the service will contain the additional costs within its budget from 2024/25.

**The Communities business concluded at 2.40pm. 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.**

**283 Education Scotland Report on Newark Primary School 283**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the recent Education Scotland full inspection of Newark Primary School.

The report outlined four key strengths, including strong pastoral leadership which created a nurturing and highly inclusive learning environment, with three areas highlighted for improvement.

Ms O'Hagan, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee in relation to the findings.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Education Scotland full inspection report on Newark Primary School be noted; and

(2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to school staff and all those involved in the inspection process.

**284 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 28 February 2023 284**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget position at 28 February 2023.

**Decided:** that the current projected underspend for 2022/23 of £701,000 as at 28 February 2023 be noted.

**285 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress 285**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (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 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted;

(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.

**286 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 286**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 (the Plan), appended as appendix 1 to the report, for approval.

**Decided:**

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- (1) that the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be approved;
- (2) that it be noted that progress reports on the delivery of the Plan and its key performance indicators will be brought to the Committee, as detailed at paragraph 3.4 of the report; and
- (3) that it be noted that the version of the Plan appended to the report is a first iteration and may be subject to further refinement going forward.

**287 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 287**

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:**

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes, (b) education reform update, (c) tier 2 and 3 mental health provision, and (d) Learning Hours consultation; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further update on the provision of tier 2 and 3 mental health and wellbeing services to the next meeting.

**288 Outcome of Statutory Consultation Process – Change of Blairmore Nursery School to Blairmore Children’s Centre 288**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the outcome of the statutory consultation process regarding the future leadership and status of Blairmore Nursery School.

The Head of Education provided a verbal update and advised that the establishment would be called Blairmore Early Learning Centre.

**Decided:** that the outcome of the statutory consultation process be approved and that accordingly Blairmore Nursery School should become Blairmore Early Learning Centre from August 2023.

**289 Universal Free School Meals in Primary Schools 289**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the introduction of universal free school meal provision in primary schools within Inverclyde from August 2023.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the early adoption of universal free school meal provision in primary schools within Inverclyde from August 2023 be approved; and
- (2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to all officers involved in achieving this initiative.

**Amendments to the Inverclyde Policy on Admissions and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools**

It was noted that this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**290 School Term Dates – Session 2024/2025 290**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &

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Organisational Development seeking Committee approval for the setting of school term dates for the session 2024/25.

**Decided:** that the school term dates for 2024/25, as detailed at appendix 1 and 2 to the report, be approved.

**291 School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) – Results of Tenders for Contracts 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 291**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval to accept the tenders for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2023/24, as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

**Decided:** that the tenders, as detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report, for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2023/24 be accepted.

**292 Education Services Standards and Quality Report April 2022 – April 2023 292**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2022 to April 2023 to the Committee for consideration and approval prior to publication.

**Decided:** that the content and publication of the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2022 to April 2023 be approved.

**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.**

**293 Early Learning and Childcare Funded Provider Update 293**

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.