

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 NOVEMBER 2023

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, and Rev D Burt, Rev F Donaldson and Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives.

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, Digital & Customer Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Laurence Reilly	Principal Educational Psychologist
Elaine McLoughlin	Education Officer
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Peter MacDonald	Solicitor
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, McGuire, Moran and Wilson, Rev Burt and Rev Donaldson attending remotely.

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

566 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

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 – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) - Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

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

Agenda Item 5 (Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde) –

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Councillor Law

Agenda Item 6 – School Transport Privilege Passes and Compliance with the Public Vehicles Regulations (PSVAR) – Councillor Wilson

Agenda Item 7 (Summer Holiday Provision for Children and Young People) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 8 (Community Grants Fund 2023/24 – Round 1) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, Daisley, McGuire, Quinn and Robertson

Agenda Item 18 (Governance of External Organisations – Inverclyde Leisure, Community Centres and Beacon Arts Centre) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson

567 **Communities Revenue Budget Report –2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2023.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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 for 2023/24 of £218,000 as at 31 August 2023 be noted; and

(2) that it be noted that £155,000 of the projected underspend relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility costs due to reduced unit rates, and as such the underlying Committee position is a projected underspend of £68,000.

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

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.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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 2023/26 Capital Programme be noted; and

(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (c) Community Hub King George VI, (d) Bank Street Community Hub (32nd Scouts), (e) Parklea Branching Out, and (f) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) The Coppermine, (ii) land at Wateryetts Drive, Kilmacolm, (iii) Walled Garden, Gourock, (iv) Crawfurdsburn Centre, and the future/potential community asset transfers, all as detailed at paragraph 3.10 of the report.

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

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

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service.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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) 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, (b) the Community Safety Partnership, (c) Period Poverty, (d) Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Substance Use Officers, (e) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report 2022/23, (f) School Letting arrangements, (g) COSLA Excellence Awards 2023, (h) Inverclyde Libraries shortlisted for award, (i) Inverclyde Culture Collective, and (j) Emergency Powers request to make a payment to pupils entitled to free school meals who are affected by school closure due to industrial action.

570 Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services seeking approval of the draft Libraries Management Rules and Museum Managements Rules prior to a statutory public consultation.

During discussion of this item it was noted that references to smoking and vaping were omitted from the draft Museum Managements Rules and officers advised that this would be reviewed.

Councillor Law declared a connection as a regular volunteer at the Watt Museum. 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 draft Libraries Management Rules and Museum Management Rules be approved for public consultation, after review of the omission noted above;

(2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services to take all action which is required in terms of implementing the statutory consultation procedure in terms of the proposed management rules;

(3) that it be noted that the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services will report back to the Committee on the outcome of the public consultation exercise to allow the Committee to consider any objections received and any consequential amendments considered appropriate; and

(4) that it be noted that the outcome of the public consultation exercise and recommendations of the Committee following that exercise will, subject to the decision of the Committee, be reported to the Inverclyde Council and that authority will subsequently be sought from the Inverclyde Council to make the Management Rules.

571 School Transport Privilege Passes and Compliance with the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (PSVAR)

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement to alter the Inverclyde Council policy on school transport by withdrawing the fee for privilege school bus passes from October 2023 in accordance with Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations.

Councillor Wilson declared a connection as a Vice Chair of Strathclyde Passenger Transport. 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: that it be agreed that the Inverclyde Council policy on school transport be altered to withdraw the fee for privilege school bus passes from October 2023.

572 Summer Holiday Provision for Children and Young People

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the services and activities that supported children and young people during the 2023 school summer holiday period.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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 provision of local services delivered to children and young people during the summer of 2023 be noted.

573 Community Grants Fund 2023/24 – Round 1

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the applications which have been received as part of round 1 of the Community Grants Fund 2023/24.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a member of the Executive Committee of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Service, Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Boards of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos) and Financial Fitness, Councillor Daisley declared a connection as he has a connection to Port Glasgow Boat Club, Councillor McGuire declared a connection as she was previously the Council's representative on the George Wyllie Foundation, is Chairperson of Inverclyde Youth for Christ and attends the Inverclyde Vineyard Church. 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 level of funding allocated by the Grants Sub-Committee to the organisations, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, 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 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.

574 Governance of External Organisations – Inverclyde Leisure, Community Centres and Beacon Arts Centre

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.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection 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: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.

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The Communities business concluded at 3.20pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev Burt and Rev Donaldson joining the meeting remotely.

575 Presentation – Historic Links to Slavery – Community Engagement and Schools Project

The Committee heard a presentation given by Elaine McLoughlin, Education Officer, on the work undertaken regarding Inverclyde's historic links to slavery. Thereafter officers answered a number of questions from Members.

Decided:

- (1) that the presentation be noted;
- (2) that congratulations be conveyed to officers for winning the COSLA Excellence Award for their work examining historic links to slavery; and
- (3) that thanks be conveyed on behalf of the Committee to everyone connected with the production of the video contained within the presentation.

576 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 August 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget position at 31 August 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £713,000 as at 31 August 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the action taken to reduce the projected overspend and the proposals to bring the budget back on track will be reported to the next meeting; and
- (3) that it be noted that (a) the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £218,000, £155,000 of which relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility bills and will be returned to the non-pay inflation contingency by year end, and (b) the remaining balance partially offsets the projected overspend for the Education part of the Committee.

577 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress

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; and
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) CO² Monitors in Schools, (c) Universal Free School Meals, and (d) Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete (RAAC).

578 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Report

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

Decided: that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities

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Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

579 West Partnership Improvement Collaborative Evaluation Report 2022-23 and Improvement Plan for 2023-24

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of (1) the Evaluation Report 2022-23, and (2) the Improvement Plan 2023-24, of the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative, known as the West Partnership.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the West Partnership Evaluation Report 2022-23 be noted; and
- (2) that the West Partnership Improvement Plan 2023-24 be approved.

580 S & Q (NIF) September 2023 and Updated Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) Plan 2023/24 with Associated Stretch Aims

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for (1) the evaluation report of Stretch Aims for Session 2022/23, and (2) the updated Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) Plan 2023-24 and associated provisional stretch aims covering sessions 2023/24-2025/26.

Decided:

- (1) that the updated National Improvement Framework Report of Session 2022/23 Stretch Aims be approved; and
- (2) that the content and publication of the SEF Plan for 2023-24 including Stretch Aims for 2024-26 be approved.

581 Setting a Sustainable Rate for Early Learning and Childcare Funded Providers

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

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to an increase in the hourly rate paid to all Early Years Funded Providers including Childminders from the current rate of £5.69 per child to £5.87 per child;
- (2) that it be agreed this new rate be backdated from 18 August 2023; and
- (3) that it be agreed this rate will be implemented for all eligible children aged two to five years who are accessing ELC within a funded provider setting.

582 Annual Report – Inverclyde Wellbeing Service

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Annual Report for 2022/23 from Action for Children, who provide the Inverclyde Wellbeing Service which includes the school aged counselling service.

Decided: that the content of the annual report for the Inverclyde Wellbeing Service be noted.

583 Update on Parental Representative for Education Part of the Education & Communities Committee

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

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Organisational Development providing an update on the election of a parent representative on the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the election process for a potential parental representative on the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee is being progressed.