

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2024

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Cassidy (for Moran), Clocherty, Daisley (for Education business only), Law, McGuire, McVey, Quinn and Robertson, and Rev D Burt and Rev F Donaldson, Church Representatives, Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative, and Ms F MacDonald, Parent 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, 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
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	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 and McGuire, Rev Burt, Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald attending remotely.

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

33 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Moran, with Councillor Cassidy substituting, Councillor Wilson, and Mr J Docherty, Church Representative. Councillor Daisley intimated an apology for Communities business only.

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 October 2023) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

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

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

Agenda Item 6 (Outstanding Remits Report – Communities) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

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Agenda Item 12 (Service Level Agreement for Inverclyde Leisure) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

34 Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 October 2023 34

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 October 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 £210,000 as at 31 October 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that £157,000 of the projected underspend relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility costs and that this budget over provision will be returned to the non-pay inflation contingency from 2024/25, in line with the treatment of windfall savings; and
- (3) that the virement of £31,000, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 and appendix 5 of the report, be approved.

35 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 35

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (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 as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillor Clocherty also declared a connection as an allotment holder at Wellington Allotments. 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, Gourrock, (iv) Crawfordsburn Centre, (v) Wellington Allotments, (vi) Gourrock YAC, and the future/potential community asset transfers as detailed at paragraph 3.10 of the report.

36 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 36

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

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) Fire Skills Course, (b) Battery Park lighting, (c) 16 days of activism, (d) Inverpride Network, (e) Period Poverty

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products, (f) Scottish Government announced Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Scotland, (g) Inverclyde Libraries Highly Commended at SLIC Awards 2023, (h) Museums Galleries Scotland successful funding bid, (i) Connecting Scotland successful funding bid, (j) National Lottery Heritage Fund successful funding bid, (k) Watt Institution Museum Accreditation, (l) Inverclyde music Services Christmas Concert, (m) the Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare, and (n) Warm Hand of Friendship.

37 Management Rules for Museums and Libraries in Inverclyde

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services appending the final Libraries Management Rules and Museum Management Rules for approval following a statutory consultation process.

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 Libraries Management Rules and Museum Management Rules as appended to the report be approved; and
- (2) that the Libraries Management Rules and Museum Management Rules be referred to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Council with the recommendation that they be formally approved and that officers be authorised to formally make the rules in accordance with the statutory procedure.

38 Outstanding Remits Report - Communities

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on several outstanding remits.

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) U16s gym access, (b) Broomhill Pitch, and (c) Boglestone Activity Centre – Spend to Save.

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.

39 Service Level Agreement for Inverclyde Leisure

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee on the Service Level Agreement between Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Leisure which forms part of the regular governance arrangements, a copy of which was appended to the report.

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: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in

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the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.

The Communities business concluded at 2.50pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev Burt, Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald joining the meeting remotely.

40 Update on Parental Representative for Education Part of the Education & Communities Committee 40

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the election of a parent representative on the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee.

Decided: that the appointment of Fiona MacDonald as Parent Representative to serve on the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Arrangements be approved.

41 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 October 2023 41

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 October 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £302,000 as at 31 October 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the projected overspend has reduced since the last Committee meeting mainly due to a credit within Employee Costs of £127,000 for strike days in schools, £247,000 of additional funding for the Teachers' Induction Programme and £100,000 of the ASN Smoothing Reserve offsetting ASN Transport costs; and
- (3) that it be noted that the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £210,000 which partially offsets the projected overspend for the Education part of the Committee.

42 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress 42

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, and (c) Universal Free School Meals.

43 Education Update Report – Overview of local and National Initiatives 43

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 for Inverkip Primary School Nursery Class and Play for All provision based at

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Craigmarloch School, (b) Independent Review of Qualifications and assessment, (c) Education Reform, (d) Education Bill consultation response, (e) Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels 2022/23, (f) Scottish Attainment Challenge – local stretch aims 2023/24 to 2025/26, (g) statutory review of the National Improvement Framework, (h) Education (Scotland) Act 2016 – Statutory Guidance Working Group, (i) Getting it Right for Every Child, (j) Scottish Languages Bill, and (k) teacher numbers update; and

(2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be conveyed to all staff at Inverkip Primary School Nursery Class and Play for All after school provision based at Craigmarrloch School for the successful Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes recently received.

44 Secondary Gaelic Education in Inverclyde – Establishment of a Catchment Area for GME Provision at Inverclyde Academy 44

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with the outcome of the statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for secondary Gaelic provision at Inverclyde Academy.

Decided:

(1) that approval be given to the establishment of a secondary catchment area for Gaelic education at Inverclyde Academy for the academic year beginning August 2024; and

(2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be conveyed to all officers connected with this project.

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 paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

45 Governance of External Organisation – Update on Early Years Provider 45

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

Decided: following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.