

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2024

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Crowther (for Law), Daisley, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, and 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 Interim Head of Legal & Democratic, 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)
Peter MacDonald	Principal Solicitor
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & 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 Quinn and Ms MacDonald attending remotely.

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

163 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Law, with Councillor Crowther substituting, and Mr J Docherty, Rev D Burt and Rev F Donaldson, Church Representatives.

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 December 2023) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

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

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

Agenda Item 6 (Beacon Arts Centre – Performance Outcomes to be agreed with the Beacon Arts Centre for the year 2024/25) – Councillor Robertson.

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164 Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 December 2023 164

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 December 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 £151,000 as at 31 December 2023 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that £143,000 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.

165 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 165

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.

Councillor Clocherty declared a connection as an allotment holder at Wellington Allotments. 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 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) Community Hub King George VI, (c) Bank Street Community Hub (32nd Scouts), (d) Parklea Branching Out, and (e) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Gourock Park Walled Garden, (ii) Wellington Allotments, and (iii) KGV Bowling Club.

166 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 166

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

Councillor Quinn declared a connection as a family member has been elected as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. 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 updates on the following be noted (a) Review of School Crossing Sites, (b) Community Council Elections 2024, (c) The Multiply Programme Inverclyde, (d) the Early Adopter Affordable Out of School Childcare Pilot, (e) Scottish Youth Parliament, (f) UK Department for Culture Media & Sport funding and LED pitch lighting, and (g) libraries service developments for (i) Pathways Through Play, (ii) author visit – Thomas Clark, (iii) South West Library events, (iv) author events at HMP Greenock – Dr Jim Ferguson, (v) International Women’s Day Events, and (vi) First Aid in a Resilient

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Inverclyde Community Conference.

167 Update on Inverclyde Council's Approach to Asset Transfer 167

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Asset Transfer process in Inverclyde following a request to do so at the 23 January 2024 meeting of this Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the submission of an Asset Transfer Annual Report to Committee be agreed, commencing at the end of 2024/2025.

168 Beacon Arts Centre – Performance Outcomes to be agreed with the Beacon Arts Centre for the year 2024/25 168

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) seeking agreement for the performance outcomes for 2024/25 between Inverclyde Council and the Greenock Arts Guild Ltd who are the Board for the Beacon Arts Centre, and (2) asking the Committee to note that the Funding Agreements and Service Level Agreements between the two organisations are being revised and updated to run on a three yearly basis.

Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild. 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 it be noted that the timescales for the review of the Funding and Service level Agreements between Greenock Arts Guild Ltd, the Board for the Beacon Arts Centre, and Inverclyde Council will now move to a three yearly basis;
- (2) that the performance outcomes, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be agreed;
- (3) that it be noted that the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chief Financial Officer will finalise details of the Funding Agreement, Minute of Variation and Service Level Agreement; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Annual Report will be presented to the Committee in the autumn in line with approved governance requirements.

The Communities business concluded at 3.10pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald joining the meeting remotely.

169 Education Revenue Budget Report – 2023/24 Projected Outturn at 31 December 2023 169

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 December 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £161,000 as at 31 December 2023 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £151,000 which largely offsets the projected overspend for the

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Education part of the Committee.

170 Education Capital Programme 2023/26 - Progress 170

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.

171 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Report 171

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:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee for approval.

172 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives 172

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.

Ms McEwan joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) Independent Review of Qualifications and assessment, (b) Education and skills reform, (c) Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), (d) Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs), (e) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Results 2022, (f) systematic improvement curriculum cycle, (g) digital learning, (h) secondary Gaelic medium education progress, (i) teacher numbers, (j) Inverclyde STEM Festival, and (k) Education projects on vaping.

173 Report on Future Operation of Lomond View Academy 173

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the proposed staffing structure and delivery model for Lomond View Academy.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the success of the Delivering Differently Project for Lomond View Academy be noted;
- (2) that the staffing structure and funding implications, as detailed at appendices 1a and 1b of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the delivery model, as detailed at appendix 2 of the report, be noted; and
- (4) that it be noted that a further report on primary provision will be brought back to the Committee in the future.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

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- 174 Devolved School Management – Scheme of Delegation 174**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to continue the current Devolved School Management Scheme of Delegation for a further two-year period.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
 - (2) that the Devolved School Management Scheme of Delegation be approved for a further two-year period.
- 175 Education Services – Child Protection Guidelines 175**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with Education Services' 'Protecting Children and Supporting their Wellbeing' child protection procedures for noting
- Decided:** that the 'Protecting Children and Supporting their Wellbeing' procedures be noted.
- 176 Appendix relative to Agenda Item 11 (Report on Future Operation of Lomond View Academy) providing additional information on Lomond View Academy 176**
- There was submitted a private appendix providing additional information on Lomond View Academy by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development.
- Decided:** that the appendix be noted.