

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2024

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### Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 2pm

**Present:** Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Curley, McGuire, McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, and Rev D Burt, Church Representative, 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)
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Adam Stephenson	Education Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley and Wilson, 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.**

#### 504 **Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

504

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

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

Agenda Item 5 (Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 7 (Community Grants Fund 2024/25 – Round 1) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, McGuire, Quinn and Robertson

Agenda Item 12 (Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives) – Councillor Quinn

Agenda Item 17 (Governance of External Organisations) – Councillors Armstrong, Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson

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- 505      2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget Update      505**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget.
- Decided:**
- (1) that it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £46,000 (0.8%); and
  - (2) that it be noted that the Corporate Director continues to seek ways to reduce the overspend and that progress will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 506      Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items      506**
- 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.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted; and
  - (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) King George VI Community Hub, (c) Boglestone Community Centre – Childcare Early Adopter Project, (d) Parklea Branching Out, and (e) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Wellington Allotments, (ii) KGV Bowling Club, (iii) Coppermine (Scouts), (iv) Larkfield waste ground/Larkfield Guerilla Gardens (Banff Road/Fife Drive), and (v) Broomhill Way shop unit/Broomhill Beats.
- 507      Active Schools Performance 2023/24      507**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) informing the Committee of the Active Schools team performance for the school year 2023/24, and (2) seeking approval for the mandatory accreditation of all affiliated clubs.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, in particular the improvements in performance in 2023/24; and
  - (2) that the mandatory use of the Active Schools/Sports Development Safe Club Accreditation scheme be agreed.
- 508      Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives      508**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the 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:**
- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Locality Planning: Community Conversations Week, (b) Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare, (c) Fairer Futures Partnership, (d) Duke of Edinburgh Award, (e) Summer Programme 2024, (f)

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Battery Park Lighting project, (g) independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Scotland, (h) Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report, (i) Inverclyde Leisure Memorandum and Articles of Association, (j) Inverclyde Libraries Supporting Realistic Medicine, (k) Green Libraries Week, (l) Summer Reading Challenge, (m) Heard in the Library – School Library Improvement Fund, (n) Galoshans Festival 10th Anniversary, (o) Inverclyde Music Service, concerts, competitions and events, and (p) The Watt Institution;

(2) that the new three-year Duke of Edinburgh Award licence be agreed and that the contribution of the Duke of Edinburgh Inverclyde Support Group be noted; and

(3) that it be remitted to officers to consult with Inverclyde Leisure and review the proposed change to Article 5.4, as detailed in the report, which would reduce the period in which a company employee can sit on the Board from 36 months to 12 months, and submit a further report on this matter to the Committee at the next meeting.

### 509 Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report 2024/25 509

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the progress of the Inverclyde Child Poverty Local Action Report and Action Plan for Year 6 (2024/25) which outlines the strategic direction for reducing child poverty in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

(1) that the contents of the report be noted; and

(2) that the key successes in reducing child poverty in Inverclyde as detailed in the report be noted.

### 510 Community Grants Fund 2024/25 – Round 1 510

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing details of the applications received and grants awarded to voluntary and community organisations by the Grants Sub-Committee as part of round 1 of the Community Grants Fund 2024/25.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, Councillor Armstrong declared a connection as a member of the Board of Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Service, Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild, and Councillor McGuire declared a connection as Chairperson of Inverclyde Youth for Christ and part of the leadership team of 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.

### 511 Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27 511

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the new Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27, a copy of which was made available through an electronic link on the report having previously been approved by the Alliance Board on 7 October 2024.

**Decided:** that the Committee notes (a) the new Community Learning and Development Partnership (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2024-27, and (b) that the Plan was approved by the

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Alliance Board on 7 October 2024.

**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 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.**

Item	Paragraph(s)
<b>Governance of External Organisations</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>King George VI Community Hub - Update</b>	<b>6 &amp; 9</b>

<b>512</b>	<b>Governance of External Organisations</b>	<b>512</b>
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the governance arrangements for Inverclyde Leisure, Beacon Arts Centre, Inverclyde Voluntary Council for Social Services (IVCSS) and community centres and hubs which receive annual revenue from the Council.

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 and Councillor Robertson declared a connection as a Board Member 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:** following consideration, the Committee agreed to the actions recommended in the report, all as detailed in the private appendix.

<b>513</b>	<b>King George VI Community Hub - Update</b>	<b>513</b>
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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with an update on the progress of the King George VI Community Hub project.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

**The Communities business concluded at 3.40pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Ms McEwan and Ms MacDonald joining the meeting remotely.**

<b>514</b>	<b>2024/25 Education Revenue Budget Update</b>	<b>514</b>
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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 projected position of the 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget including details of actions being taken to reduce the projected overspend.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee notes (a) the Education Revenue Budget is currently

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projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £370,000, and (b) the action proposed to address the projected overspend; and

(2) that it be noted that proposals to address the underlying budget pressure will be presented to a future Committee meeting.

### 515 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress

515

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 2024/28 Capital programme be noted; and  
 (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schools, (c) Estate Lifecycle Programme 2024/25, (d) Artificial Pitches Asset Plan, (e) Active Plan Refresh, and (f) Net Zero.

### 516 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report

516

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 Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted.

Councillor Wilson rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

### 517 Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives

517

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.

Councillor Quinn declared a connection as her son is 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) Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Madeira Nursery and Kilmacolm Primary School's Nursery Class, (b) education reform, (c) Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments, (d) Scottish Attainment Challenge, (e) Promoting Positive Relationships policy, (f) Secondary Gaelic Medium Education (GME) progress, (g) teacher numbers, and (h) representation of the voice of young people on the Education & Communities Committee.

### 518 Review of ELC Admissions – Including Eligibility for ELC Term after Second/Third Birthday

518

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising Committee of the feedback from the latest

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review of admissions policy and allocation of places undertaken in September 2024, and (2) setting out a proposal to amend the admissions policy for eligible two and three-year old children to revert to the statutory Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) requirement of starting the term after their second/third birthday from the current provision of the month after their second/third birthday.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the proposed changes to the ELC admissions policy, as detailed in the report be agreed;
- (2) that it be agreed to change the allocation of children's entitlement to ELC in line with the Scottish Government expectation that an eligible child starts the term after their second/third birthday; and
- (3) that it be agreed that the aforementioned changes to the ELC admissions policy be implemented for the 2025 admissions process.

**519 Attendance Strategy 2024-26**

**519**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) presenting the strategy for improving attendance at schools for 2024/26, a copy of which was appended to the report, and (2) providing further data around attendance as requested by Elected Members.

**Decided:** that the Attendance Strategy for 2024-26 be approved.

**520 A Review of Provision of Early Years in Newark Nursery School**

**520**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement for an informal consultation with key stakeholders in Newark Nursery School in order to develop a clear proposal for a possible statutory consultation.

**Decided:** that approval be given to a pre-consultation exercise in relation to Newark Nursery School in order to inform a potential statutory consultation in early 2025.

**521 Update on West Partnership**

**521**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) detailing the progress over the academic year 2023-24 towards achieving each of the associated target outcomes and expected impacts detailed in the West Partnership Improvement Plan for 2023-24, and (2) seeking approval to continue collaboration with the West Partnership following an announcement from the Scottish Government in November 2023 that it would no longer fund Regional Improvement Collaboratives, noting the intention of partners within the West Partnership to continue collaboration beyond 2025.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the Improvement Plan; and
- (3) that approval be given to (a) Inverclyde Education Services remaining as part of the West Partnership beyond 2025, and (b) the allocation of £11,200 from the Strategic Equity (Attainment Challenge) Fund to resource participation.