

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

**Education and Lifelong Learning Committee**

**Tuesday 9 September 2008 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors McCallum (for Provost McCormick), Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Dorrian, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, MacLeod (for Osborne) and Wilson, Rev W Hamilton and Father M McMahon, Church Representatives, Mr G Miller, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

**Chair:** Councillor McCabe presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education & Social Care, Head of Schools, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, Head of Support & Development, School Estate Manager, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration), Head of Property Resources & Facilities Management and Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

**Apologies:** Provost McCormick, Councillor Osborne and Rev C McGranaghan.

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

**590 Education for Sustainable Development**

**590**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) seeking approval of a position statement on Education for Sustainable Development and (2) informing the Committee that Ravenscraig Primary School had achieved Green Flag status for the fourth time, thus giving the school permanent Green Flag status.

Mrs Isabel Lind, Head Teacher of Ravenscraig Primary School, was present with a number of P5 pupils who recited an "Eco" poem for the Committee.

**Decided:** that the position statement on Education for Sustainable Development be approved and that the Head Teacher, staff and pupils of Ravenscraig Primary School be congratulated on achieving their fourth Green Flag which gives the school permanent Green Flag status.

**591 Inverclyde Junior Choir**

**591**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the success of Inverclyde Junior Choir in the World Championship of Choirs held in Graz, Austria in July 2008. The report advised also that the Training Choir had progressed as the Scottish representative in the national finals which will be held in Liverpool in November 2008.

Mrs Palma Allan, conductor of the Inverclyde Choir, was present and spoke on this item.

**Decided:** that the Committee express its pleasure with the success of both the Inverclyde Junior Choir at the World Championship of Choirs and the Training Choir in reaching the national finals and convey its congratulations to all concerned.

**592 Proposals to Alter the Provision from Two Primary Bases in Inverclyde**

**592**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval for the reconfiguration of the Primary Behaviour Unit in Sacred Heart Primary School and the School Age Language Unit in Highlanders Academy.

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the reconfiguration of the Primary Behaviour Unit to provide nurturing support for younger pupils, support for older pupils in their mainstream setting and support to schools in producing Individual Educational Plans (IEP's); and
- (2) that consideration of the possible reconfiguration of the School Age Language Unit at Highlanders Academy be continued to the next meeting of the Committee to allow further consultation with affected parents.

**593 Revenue Budget Outturn 2007/08 and Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 3****593**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the 2007/08 Revenue Budget outturn and the 2008/09 Revenue Budget position as at period 3 (30 June 2008) which showed a projected overspend of £473,000.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the outturn for 2007/08 and the current projected overspend of £473,000 for 2008/09 as at 30 June 2008 be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to remit £170,000 of the school heating oil overspend to the Policy & Resources Committee to consider the granting of a supplementary revenue budget; and
- (3) that the Committee approve the virement request totalling £173,000 as detailed in paragraph 8.1 and appendix 3 of the report.

**594 Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress****594**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care and Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2008/11.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) that the Committee note the over-expenditure on the Rainbow Nursery project and approve the items listed in appendix 2, the new project budget and the transfer of funding from the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) Programme to the non SEMP Programme;
- (3) that the Committee approve the addition of St Patrick's Primary School Boiler Replacement Project to the 2009/10 Capital Programme, to be funded from the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Lifecycle Fund allocation; and
- (4) that the Committee grant approval for the projects listed in the 2009/10 Capital Programme proceeding to tender and that delegated authority be granted to accept tenders in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, including a specific delegation to the Head of Legal & Administration in consultation with the Convener, Vice-Convener and a Member of the Minority Groups to accept tenders where the value exceeds £250,000.

**595 Education Service - Performance Report - May to July 2008****595**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period May to July 2008 in relation to achieving the service objectives and explaining how this contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

**Noted****596 Education Services - Service Plan 2008/09****596**

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending the Education Service Plan for 2008/09 following approval of the Plan's key priorities at the meeting of the Committee on 6 May 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that Education Services continue to support and challenge schools as work towards implementing the Service Plan priorities and improving the service offered to children and young people in Inverclyde progresses; and
- (2) that it be noted that progress reports on implementation of the Service Plan will be submitted on a regular basis.

**597 Update on School Estate Management Plan**

**597**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on the three aspects of the School Estate Management Plan: the Public Private Partnership Programme, the Prudential Schools Programme and the Capital Programme.

There was circulated to the Committee, addendum setting out the current position of the PPP contract as at 9 September 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress of the Prudential Schools project be noted;
- (2) that the progress of the PPP Schools project be noted;
- (3) that approval be given for the issue of the consultation papers appended to the report in respect of (a) Overton Primary School/Highlanders Academy; (b) the Future of Secondary Schools in Port Glasgow; and (c) Additional Support Needs; and
- (4) that the Committee note the number of decants and capital projects completed during the summer holiday period and convey its appreciation to the School Estate Team and other services of the Council for the significant progress achieved.

**598 Education Services Standard Circulars**

**598**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Schools seeking approval of standard circulars developed by Education Services to provide guidance and advice to head teachers, heads of establishment and other staff in schools and education establishments in Inverclyde which had been approved by the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers on 25 June 2008.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the standard circulars list in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to amend the contents of the standard circulars listed in appendix 1 in the light of the outcome of any review, it being noted that all new standard circulars will continue to be submitted to the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers and the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee for approval.

**599 The Next Generation of Qualifications in Scotland: Government Consultation**

**599**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising of proposals by the Scottish Government for far-reaching changes to future qualifications in Scotland.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the report be noted; and

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

(2) that it be noted that Education Services will submit an official response to the consultation by 31 October 2008, following consultation with the Convener, Vice Convener and an opposition spokesperson.

**600 Scottish Government Consultation on the Operation of the Education - Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 (ASL Act) 600**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the submission made by the Council following the Scottish Government Consultation on the operation of the Education - Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the response submitted, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

**601 Agreement on the Employment of Temporary Teachers 601**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of an agreement reached through the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers on the employment of temporary teachers and (2) seeking homologation of the agreement.

**Decided:** that the Committee homologate the agreement approved by the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers on 25 June 2008.

**602 A Strategy for Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde 2008-2011 602**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking endorsement of the new Strategy for Community Learning & Development (CLD) in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Strategy for Community Learning & Development in Inverclyde be endorsed;

(2) that overarching responsibility for the implementation of the action plans associated with the Strategy be remitted to the Corporate Director Education & Social Care; and

(3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to submit annual reports on progress and on the achievement of outcomes and targets.

**603 Pre-School Education - Advisory Floor 2008-09 603**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care requesting the Committee to approve amendments to payments made to partner providers for pre-school education.

**Decided:** that it be agreed that the payment to partner providers remain at £1,550 per full commissioned place and that the payment to partner providers accommodated in school accommodation be decreased to £1,525 per full commissioned place.

**604 Deed of Trust - Endowment for Talented Children and Young People 604**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on a

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

Deed of Trust made by Inverclyde Council relative to an Endowment for Talented Children and Young People.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the establishment of the Endowment Fund and also the Trustees nominated in the paper, namely the Chief Financial Officer, the Corporate Director Education & Social Care and the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources; and
- (2) that the matter be referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

**605 The Lowest Attaining 20%**

**605**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the performance of S4 pupils in Inverclyde who fall into the fifth quintile of national attainment. The report advised that, using this measure, Inverclyde secondary schools' results compared very favourably with the national picture and the results of similar local authorities.

**Noted**

**606 Class Sizes**

**606**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising the Committee of developments in the policy of class sizes in primary schools and (2) explaining the implications for the Council.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee confirm its commitment to aspire to lower class sizes at all stages in the primary school;
- (2) that the Committee recognise the benefits of class sizes which are lower than the current primary school maximum of 33 pupils;
- (3) that the Committee agree that a ratio of teachers to pupils in P1 - P3 be identified for schools in Inverclyde;
- (4) that encouragement be given to head teachers to organise staff in such a way as to achieve as low class sizes in P1 - P3 as are possible within the current staffing complement in the school; and
- (5) that the intake into P1 numbers outlined in appendix 2 be adopted as the capacity of Inverclyde primary schools for the purpose of dealing with placing requests into P1.

**607 Draft Learning and Teaching Policy**

**607**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending a draft copy of the revised Learning and Teaching Policy for Inverclyde Council entitled "Learning in Inverclyde".

**Decided:** that the Committee approve the draft Learning and Teaching Policy for distribution and implementation across all Inverclyde schools and early years establishments in Inverclyde.

**608 Leadership Development in Education Services**

**608**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on progress made in relation to leadership development within the authority's educational establishments.

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

**Noted**

- 609 Use of Suppliers for Unique Services to Education 609**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval to procure the services of various companies who provide unique programmes for use by Education Services.
- Decided:**
- (1) that approval be given for the use of suppliers in financial year 2008/09 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) that a report seeking permission for the use of unique suppliers be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis.
- 610 Depute Principal Psychologist 610**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval for a further change in the promoted post structure within Psychological Services.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the advertising of the vacant post at Depute Principal Psychologist level to build additional capacity to take on responsibility within the service.
- 611 Items for Noting 611**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information for noting on (1) healthier school dinners, (2) head teacher appointments, (3) teacher vacancies and probationer allocations 2008 and (4) the court case in respect of placing requests to Greenock Academy.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a further report highlighting the implications of the Sheriff's decision for future numbers in Greenock Academy and in the new school at Bayhill will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (Mr Miller left the meeting at this juncture).
- The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration to allow the Committee to consider the proposed virements without delay. This was unanimously agreed in terms of the relevant Standing Order.**
- 612 Revenue Budget Implications for 2008/09 of Two Previously Externally Funded Initiatives 612**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising the Committee of two initiatives which were previously externally funded and (2) seeking permission to assimilate the cost into the Revenue Budget of the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee during financial year 2008/09.
- Decided:** that the Committee approve the virements detailed in the report to allow the continuation of Play4all and the Enterprise Centre within St Stephen's High School during financial year 2008/09.
- 613 Gibshill Children's Centre 613**

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2008**

---

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on proposals for the development of Family Support Services in Gibshill Children's Centre using the accommodation currently used by the Parents Support and Education Centre.

**The Convener moved 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 this item on the grounds that the discussion would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act. This was agreed unanimously.**

Following discussion on this item, Councillor Grieve moved that a fact finding group comprising Councillor Brooks, Father McMahon and Rev Hamilton be established to examine the relationship between the Gibshill Family Centre and the Parents Support and Education Centre and to meet with the various parties involved and that a report thereon be submitted to the Committee prior to a decision being made. As an amendment, Mr Tracey moved that the recommendation contained in the report be approved. On a vote, four Members voted for the amendment and six for the motion which was declared carried.

**Decided:** that a fact finding group comprising Councillor Brooks, Father McMahon and Rev Hamilton be established to examine the relationship between the Gibshill Family Centre and the Parents Support and Education Centre and to meet with the various parties involved and that a report thereon be submitted to the Committee prior to a decision being made.

**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 for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 & 8 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**614 Auchmead Road/Cumberland Road Junction Improvements**

**614**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept the tender submitted by Raynesway for the Auchmead Road/Cumberland Road junction improvements in the sum of £765,903.00.

**Noted**