

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee**Tuesday 20 January 2009 at 4.00 pm**

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, McKenzie, 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 McKenzie presided.

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

Apologies: Rev C McGranaghan.

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

69 HMIe Report on Gourock Primary School**69**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the results of the HMIe external evaluation of Gourock Primary School. The report advised that the Indicators of Quality had been amended by HMIe and that of the five Indicators, two had been evaluated as "good" and three as "satisfactory". There was also circulated a strategic action plan which will follow the areas for improvement.

Ms Joan McGill, Head Teacher of Gourock Primary School, was present together with two P7 pupils, Hope Donnachie and Austin Clark, who spoke to the Committee concerning various initiatives in place within the school.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made by the HMIe external evaluation of Gourock Primary School and commend the various examples of good practice set out in the report; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee in one year's time showing the progress made against the strategic action plan.

70 HMIe Follow-through Report on Ardgowan Primary School**70**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the results of the HMIe follow-through external evaluation of Ardgowan Primary School which had concluded that there was clear evidence of improvement since the initial September 2006 inspection and that the school was performing well overall. The report further advised that HMIe had indicated that given the continued strong leadership, commitment of staff and support from the education authority, the school was very well placed to continue to improve and that, as a result, they would make no further visits in connection with the September 2006 inspection.

Ms Sheena McFarlane, Head Teacher of Ardgowan Primary School, was present and spoke to this item.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2009

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made in the HMle follow-through report on Ardgowan Primary School; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to the Head Teacher, staff and pupils of the school as well as staff within Education Services Headquarters for the work undertaken to achieve the considerable improvements implemented since the initial September 2006 inspection.

71 Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 7**71**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the position of the Revenue Budget 2008/09 as at Period 7 (31 October 2008) which was projected to be on budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the various virement requests totalling £430,000 set out in Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

72 Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress**72**

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 Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the cost increases of £33,529 in the Inverkip Primary School extension project and £24,777 in the Kings Oak Primary School roof renewal and window replacement project as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (3) that the Committee approve the addition of Lilybank School adaptations to the Capital Programme and homologate the decision to add the Highholm Primary School window grills project to the Capital Programme.

73 Education Service Performance Report - November to December 2008**73**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period November to December 2008 in relation to achieving the service objectives and (2) explaining how this contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided: that the report be approved.

74 Standards and Quality Report 2007/08**74**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval of the Standards and Quality Report produced by Education Services for session 2007/08 and for its distribution to key stakeholders.

Decided: that approval be given to the content of the Standards and Quality Report for session 2007/08 and for its publication and distribution to key stakeholders.

75 Wider Consultation on Provision from the School Age Language Unit (SALU)**75**

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2009

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care requesting the Committee to approve the issue of a consultation document setting out options for the future delivery of services to primary aged children who have a specific language impairment.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the issue of the consultation document set out in the appendix to the report to parents of all pupils currently attending primary schools and early years establishments; and
- (2) that a report on the results of the consultation process be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

76 The Next Generation of Qualifications in Scotland: Government Consultation 76

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care appending the final version of the response submitted by the Council to the Scottish Government relative to the consultation document "The Next Generation of Qualifications in Scotland".

Decided: that approval be given to the response to the Scottish Government consultation as detailed in the appendix to the report.

77 Joint Statement on Community Learning and Development by the Scottish Government and COSLA 77

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of the Joint Statement on Community Learning and Development (CLD) by the Scottish Government and COSLA, (2) confirming the commitment of Inverclyde Council to the shared vision outlined in the statement and (3) reviewing the progress made by Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Alliance in addressing the challenges identified in the statement and setting priorities for action.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the Joint Statement on Community Learning and Development be noted;
- (2) that the Committee confirm its commitment to the shared vision as outlined in the statement; and
- (3) that the priorities for action proposed at section 6 of the report be endorsed.

78 Outdoor Education 78

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the action taken following the decision to establish a residential experience for all P6 pupils in Inverclyde funded by the £80,000 allocated in the current year's budget settlement for the further development of outdoor education across Inverclyde educational establishments.

Noted

79 Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools 2007-2008 79

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the destinations of leavers from Scottish schools in 2007-2008.

There were circulated to the Committee, Appendix 1 providing comparative information on Inverclyde's performance against all other Scottish local authorities and Appendix 2 showing the destination figures for Inverclyde secondary schools.

Decided:

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2009

- (1) that the Committee note the highly positive performance of Inverclyde in relation to the destinations of school leavers; and
 (2) that all relevant staff within Education Services be commended for the work undertaken to achieve these results.

80 Permission to Seek Tenders for the Provision of School Transport 80

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval to procure transport services with a value of more than £250,000.

Decided: that authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to seek tenders for (1) transport services for pupils with additional support needs and/or medical conditions for school sessions 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 and (2) transport services for consortium and miscellaneous purposes for school sessions 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

81 Moving Forward with a Curriculum for Excellence Strategy 2008/10 81

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval of the Curriculum for Excellence Strategy produced by Education Services for the period 2008/10.

Decided: that approval be given to the content of the Curriculum for Excellence Strategy set out in the appendix and for its publication as detailed in the report.

82 Able Pupils in Inverclyde Schools 82

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information on the performance of more able pupils in Inverclyde.

Decided: that the Committee note the good progress being made by schools in Inverclyde in relation to more able pupils.

83 Items for Noting 83

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information for noting on (1) the teaching of history in schools, (2) children educated outwith schools and pupil projections 2008, (3) the outcome of the meeting with Councillor Ahlfeld relative to Gourock Primary School, (4) the outcome of the meeting with the parent chairs of Greenock Academy and Gourock High School, (5) statistics on looked after children 2007/2008 and (6) attendance and absence in Scottish schools 2007/2008.

Noted

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Osborne and countersigned by Councillor Brooks was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to consider the proposals contained therein without delay. This was agreed unanimously.

84 Notice of Motion - Working Group on the Future of Secondary Education Provision in Port Glasgow 84

There was submitted a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Osborne and

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2009

countersigned by Councillor Brooks in the following terms:

“That the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee agrees that the future of secondary education provision in Port Glasgow is of key concern to all elected members of this Council and that efforts to ensure a satisfactory outcome for the people of Port Glasgow should include members of all the parties which make up the Education Committee. Therefore the Committee agrees that the composition of the working group which is looking at the future of secondary education in Port Glasgow should be amended to include one SNP elected member and one Liberal Democrat elected member.”

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that no further meetings of the Working Group will take place pending the report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to the Committee on the results of the consultation exercise relative to the future of secondary education provision in Port Glasgow;
- (2) that the Corporate Director Education & Social Care include within his report proposals for the composition of the Working Group including appropriate Elected Member representation; and
- (3) that, in the circumstances, the Notice of Motion be withdrawn.