

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 3 NOVEMBER 2009

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 3 November 2009 at 4.00 pm

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

Chair: Councillor McKenzie presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Acting Director of Education, 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) and Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration).

Present also: Ms Maggi Allan, Education Advisor to the Council.

Apologies: Councillors Grieve and McCabe.

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

701 HMIe Report on St John's Primary School 701

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe external evaluation of St John's Primary School. The report advised that of the indicators of quality, two had been evaluated as "very good" and three as "good".

Mr Mark Coyle, Head Teacher of St John's Primary School, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe external evaluation of St John's Primary School; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

702 HMIe Report on Earnhill Primary School 702

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe external evaluation of Earnhill Primary School. The report advised that of the indicators of quality, one had been evaluated as "excellent" and four as "very good".

Ms Janet Leicester, Head Teacher of Earnhill Primary School, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe external evaluation of Earnhill Primary School; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

703 HMIe Report on Bluebird Family Centre 703

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the

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HMIe and Care Commission inspection of the Bluebird Family Centre. The report advised that of the indicators of quality, two had been evaluated as “good” and three as “satisfactory”.

Ms Gillian McDougall, Head of Centre, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the inspection report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Bluebird Family Centre; and
- (2) that the Committee’s appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

704 Revenue Budget 2009/10 - Period 5 704

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Acting Director of Education on the position of the 2009/10 Revenue Budget as at period 5 (31 August 2009) which was projecting an underspend of £24,000 (0.03% of the total Education Budget).

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend of £24,000 in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget as at 31 August 2009 be noted; and
- (2) that the virement request totalling £598,640 detailed in appendix 4 of the report be approved.

705 Capital Programme 2009/12 - Progress 705

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education and Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2009/12.

Noted

706 Education Service Performance Report - July to September 2009 706

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period July to September 2009 in relation to achieving the service objectives and (2) explaining how this has contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be approved; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing further information on positive school leaver destinations.

707 Update on the More Choices, More Chances Initiative 707

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing an update on the progress made with the More Choices, More Chances Initiative.

Noted

708 2 National Reports on Young People: Valuing Young People and Bridging the Gap 708

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) advising the Committee of the publication of two National Reports on Young People: “Valuing Young People: principles and connections to support young people to achieve their potential” and “Bridging the Gap: improving outcomes for Scotland’s young people through school

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and youth work partnerships” and (2) reviewing the implications of the reports for work with young people in Inverclyde.

Decided:

(1) that the principles outlined in the document: “Valuing Young People” be adopted and that the principles be used to guide those making decisions which affect young people and those delivering services to them; and

(2) that approval be given to the further development and formalisation of joint working between schools and the Community Learning & Development (CLD) Service in line with the guidelines and good practice highlighted in the report “Bridging the Gap”.

709 Proposals to Maximise Impact for Learners, their Families and Communities 709

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking endorsement of the proposals contained in the paper “Proposals to Maximise Impact for Learners, their Families and Communities” appended to the report.

Decided: that the Committee note and approve the proposals contained in the paper appended to the report.

710 School Green Charters 710

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education appending information on School Green Charters.

Decided: that the Committee note and approve the report and the information on School Green Charters set out in the appendices.

711 Overarching Statement on Equalities 711

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education appending a paper entitled “Equalities in Inverclyde Schools: A Single Overarching Equalities Statement”.

Noted

712 Update on Progress with the Implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence 712

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education advising of the progress being made with the Implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Decided: that the Committee note the very good progress being made with the implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde.

713 Results of the Consultation on Additional Support Needs Provision in Inverclyde 713

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) providing information on the statutory consultation exercise relating to Additional Support Needs provision in Inverclyde carried out between 14 September and 16 October 2009, (2) highlighting the issues raised during the consultation and the implications which these have for the proposals and (3) seeking approval of the recommendations contained in the report.

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

Decided:

(1) that a new special needs school be developed to accommodate Lilybank and Glenburn Schools and 8 nursery places from Hillend Children’s Centre;

(2) that the new special school be developed on the site of the new shared campus school in Port Glasgow;

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- (3) that places for up to 8 nursery pupils be made available in the new special school;
- (4) that a primary special needs unit be developed in St Francis Primary School for up to 10 pupils; and
- (5) that Hillend Children's Centre continue to operate as it does at present but with a reduction of 8 pupils who have complex needs and are medically dependent.

714 Review of Admissions and Placing Requests Policy of Inverclyde Council

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education advising of the responses received during the consultation on the review of Admissions and Placing Requests Policy.

(Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that agreement be given to the immediate implementation of the Admissions and Placing Requests Policy;
- (3) that it be agreed that Education Services update current catchment area data to bring it into line with the new policy;
- (4) that a working group be established immediately with the remit of drafting the documentation to issue to schools and parents and that the working group include representation by parents and the trade unions;
- (5) that the standard circulars which relate to admission and placing requests be withdrawn and rewritten to reflect the terms of the new policy; and
- (6) that a report be submitted to the Committee by no later than June 2010 on the progress made with the implementation of the policy.

The Convener being of the opinion that the report by the Acting Director of Education on the Use of Suppliers for Unique Services to Education was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to decide on the recommendations at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

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.

715 Use of Suppliers for Unique Services to Education

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval to procure the services of SJ Educational Support Services Ltd for the provision of attainment analysis for 5-14 assessments (all primary and all secondary schools) and for SQA (all secondary schools).

(Councillor McIlwee left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the use of SJ Educational Support Services Ltd for financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that it be noted that this supplier will be included in future annual reports on unique suppliers used by Education Services.