

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 19 JANUARY 2010

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, Nelson (for Grieve), Loughran, McCabe, McKenzie, Osborne and Wilson, 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: Acting Director of Education, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, Head of School Estate Projects, 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 Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications & Public Affairs).

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

Apologies: Councillor Grieve and Rev Hamilton.

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

53 HMIe Report on Treetops Community Nursery

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Treetops Community Nursery. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, two had been evaluated as "very good" and three as "good".

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

(Councillor Blair entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

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

54 HMIe Report on Ladybird Pre-5 Centre

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Ladybird Pre-5 Centre. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, four had been evaluated as "very good" and one as "good".

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

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Ladybird Pre-5 Centre; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

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- 55 HMIe Report on St Kenneth's Primary School 55**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe external evaluation of St Kenneth's Primary School. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, three had been evaluated as "very good" and two as "good".
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the HMIe external evaluation of St Kenneth'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.
- 56 Revenue Budget 2009/10 - Period 7 56**
- 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 7 (31 October 2009) which projected an underspend of £107,000 (0.14% of the total Education Budget).
- Decided:**
- (1) that the current projected underspend of £107,000 in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget as at 31 October 2009 be noted; and
 - (2) that the virement request totalling £114,240 detailed in appendix 4 to the report be approved.
- 57 Capital Programme 2009/12 - Progress 57**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education and Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2009/12.
(Councillor Loughran entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Noted**
- 58 Education Service Performance Report - October to December 2009 58**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period October to December 2009 in relation to achieving the service objectives and (2) explaining how this has contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.
- Decided:** that the report be approved.
- 59 Mearns Centre: Future Provision 59**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval for the adaptation of St Laurence's Primary School (1) to allow relocation of the Mearns Centre which provides support for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) and (2) to provide additional office accommodation for the Council.
- Decided:**
- (1) that agreement be given to the creation of a 24 unit SEBD unit at St Laurence's Primary School;
 - (2) that it be agreed to vire £160,000 from the Residential Schools and ASN placements budgets to part fund the capital investment required;
 - (3) that the Mearns Centre be declared surplus to educational requirements following the creation of the unit at St Laurence's Primary School and that consideration of the future of the property be remitted to the Regeneration Committee; and

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(4) that ownership of the St Laurence's Primary School building be transferred from Education Services to Property Resources & Facilities Management when the new All Saints Primary School opens in 2010.

60 Ravenscraig Primary School - Property Surplus to Education Service Requirements 60

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval to declare Ravenscraig Primary School surplus to the requirements of Education Services.

Decided: that Ravenscraig Primary School be declared surplus to the requirements of Education Services from the date of closure.

61 Surplus Capacity in Secondary Schools 61

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education advising of proposals for the use of accommodation which has been identified as being surplus to the educational requirements of Gourock High School and Greenock Academy for session 2010/11.

Decided:

(1) that it be agreed to remove one surplus classroom from the accommodation in Gourock High School, thus reducing the capacity to 610 for session 2010/11 which will ensure that the capping level of 100 is not breached;

(2) that it be agreed to remove six surplus classrooms from the accommodation in Greenock Academy, thus reducing the capacity to 686 for session 2010/11 which will ensure that the capping level of 100 is not breached;

(3) that the alternative uses of the surplus accommodation be put in place in May/June 2010;

(4) that the capping of the S1 intake for Gourock High School for session 2010/11 be reaffirmed at 100 pupils;

(5) that the capping of the S1 intake for Greenock Academy for session 2010/11 be reaffirmed at 100 pupils; and

(6) that the capping of the S1 intake for Clydeview Academy for session 2011/12 be reaffirmed at 180 pupils.

62 Property Resources & Facilities Management Education Catering 62

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources (1) advising of the demand for education catering, (2) identifying issues relevant to the demand for school meals and (3) seeking approval for the establishment of a short life working group to consider the promotion of education catering with a view to increasing the uptake of school meals.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the information contained in the report;

(2) that approval be given to the establishment of a short life working group to consider the promotion of school meals as detailed in section 5 of the report and to report back to the Regeneration Committee on 6 May 2010; and

(3) that Councillor Loughran and Mr Miller be nominated to serve on the short life working group.

63 Standards and Quality Report 2008/09 63

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval for

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Education Services' Standards and Quality Report for session 2008/09 and its distribution to key stakeholders.

Decided: that approval be given to the content and publication of the Standards and Quality Report 2008/09 appended to the report.

64 Additional Support for Learning Bill: Consultations on the Amendments to the Draft Code of Practice 64

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing details of a consultation exercise currently being undertaken by the Scottish Government in relation to proposed amendments to the Draft Code of Practice supporting the new Additional Support Needs legislation.

Decided: that approval be given to the response made to the consultation exercise on behalf of Education Services as detailed in the appendix to the report.

65 Update on School Leaver Destination Results for 2008/09 65

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing an update on the school leaver destination results for academic year 2008/09.

Decided: that the Committee note the positive information contained in the report.

66 Update on the Get Ready for Work Programme 66

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing an update on the changes to the national training programme, Get Ready for Work, and its impact locally.

Noted

67 Literacy Commission Report 67

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education informing the Committee of the publication of "A Vision for Scotland", the report and final recommendations of the Literacy Commission.

Decided:

(1) that the contents of the Literacy Commission report appended to the report be noted; and

(2) that it be agreed that the recommendations in the report be used to update Inverclyde Council's literacy strategy and that a report thereon be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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 paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

68 Future Provision of Early Years Services in Gourock

68

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) providing information on Early Years services in the Gourock area, (2) proposing that Education Services assume responsibility for the Binnie Street Community Centre and (3) proposing that a new Children's Centre to replace Gourock Pre-5 Centre be developed in the Binnie Street Community Centre.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the information on Early Years services in the Gourock area as detailed in the report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that Education Services assume responsibility for the Binnie Street Community Centre building;
- (3) that agreement be given to a new Children's Centre being developed in the Binnie Street Community Centre;
- (4) that virement of £45,000 be made from Community Services to Education Services in respect of the operation of the building; and
- (5) that the Policy & Resources Committee be requested to approve the virement and the change of use of Binnie Street Community Centre.