

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2010

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, 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: Acting Director of Education, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, School Estate Manager, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer) and Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration).

Apologies: Councillor Grieve.

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

202 HMIe Report on Gibshill Children’s Day Centre 202

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe and Care Commission inspection of Gibshill Children’s Day Centre. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, five had been evaluated as “very good”. Ms Isabel McCorquodale, Head of Centre, was present with two pupils and she 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 Gibshill Children’s Day Centre; and
- (2) that the Committee’s appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

203 HMIe Report on St Columba’s High School 203

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the results of the HMIe external evaluation of St Columba’s High School. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, four had been evaluated as “very good” and one as “good”. Mr M Docherty, Head Teacher, was present with the Head Boy and Head Girl of the school and Mr Docherty addressed the Committee relative to the evaluation report.

Decided:

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

204 Education and Lifelong Learning Revenue Budget 2009/10 - Period 9 204

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 9 (31 December 2009) which projected an underspend of £167,000 (0.2% of the total Education budget).

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Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend of £167,000 in the 2009/10 Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2009 be noted;
- (2) that the virement request totalling £71,000 detailed in appendix 4 to the report be approved; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on expenditure to date from the Endowment for Talented Children and Young People.

205 Capital Programme 2009/12 - Progress Report 205

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

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for the following projects and delegated authority be granted to accept the lowest acceptable tender in each case:
Overton Primary School - Refurbishment and extension for combined Overton and Highlanders Academy Primary School
Earnhill Primary School - Refurbishment and extension for combined Sacred Heart and St Gabriel's Primary School.

206 Education Service Performance Report 206

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period January to March 2010 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 the next meeting of the Committee on local developments in relation to the Curriculum for Excellence.

207 Budget Decisions on Class Sizes P1-P3 and Breakfast Clubs 207

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing an update on the budget decisions taken in respect of class sizes P1-P3 and Breakfast Clubs.

Decided: that approval be given to the distribution of the additional funding for class size reductions and Breakfast Clubs as detailed in the report.

208 Childcare Strategy and Surestart Funding 208

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing information on the use of Childcare Strategy and Surestart funding to voluntary and private providers.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that agreement be given to the new method of allocating Childcare Strategy and Surestart funding in relation to vulnerable children under 3 as detailed in the report.

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- 209 Education Services - Three Yearly Review of the Disability Equality Scheme 209**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the outcome of the three yearly review of the Disability Equality Scheme which was approved by the Committee on 9 January 2007.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that Education Services is continuing to revise and update its Disability Equality Scheme and to review and report on its implementation.
- 210 Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group 210**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education (1) informing the Committee of the reasons for establishing the Equality Champions (Education) Focus Group and (2) explaining the role of the Group.
- Noted**
- 211 Exclusions from Schools 2008/09 211**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education providing information on Inverclyde's performance in relation to exclusions from schools.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the improving trend in reducing the number of exclusions from Inverclyde schools.
- 212 Consultation on Partnership Working between Allied Health Professionals and Education 212**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the proposed response by Education Services to the consultation on the idea of partnership working between Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and Education staff. (Councillor Osborne left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:** that approval be given to the consultation response set out in the appendix to the report.
- Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.
- 213 Consultation on a National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People 213**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval of a response by Education Services to the consultation by the Scottish Government on a national approach to anti-bullying.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the response set out in the appendix to the report.
- 214 The Lowest Attaining 20% 214**
- There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education on the performance of S4 pupils in Inverclyde who fall into the fifth quintile of national attainment.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the statistics set out in the report which show Inverclyde's schools in a very favourable light, together with the possible reasons for these results.

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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 two items 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.

215 Purchase of Modular Classrooms at St Ninian's Primary School 215

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval to purchase modular classrooms located at St Ninian's Primary School which are currently on hire.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee homologate the decision to negotiate a price for the purchase of the modular units from Sibcas Ltd, this being the best value option for the Council; and
- (2) that approval be given to the purchase of the modular classrooms from Sibcas Ltd for the sum of £47,000.

216 Port Glasgow Shared Campus and ASN School - Appointment of Design Team 216

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Education seeking approval to appoint a design team for the Port Glasgow shared campus and ASN School.

(Father McMahon left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Following a vote, the Committee agreed to the appointment of Archial Architects Ltd, all as detailed in the appendix.

217 Mr Colin Struthers, Mr Colin Laird and Mr Tom Reid. 217

At the conclusion of business, the Convener referred to the recent retirements of Mr Colin Struthers, Head of Support & Development and Mr Tom Reid, Head of School Estate Project and to the forthcoming retirement of Mr Colin Laird, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support. He extended his thanks to all three officers for their assistance over the years and on behalf of the Committee extended his best wishes for the future.