

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 13 MARCH 2012

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, Moran (for McKenzie), Osborne and Wilson, Father M McMahon, Church Representative, Mr R Thomson, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Loughran presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education & Communities, Head of Education, Head of Educational Planning & Culture, Ms E Hamilton and Mr I Mills (Education Services), Ms J Buchanan (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr F Jarvie (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Mr E Montgomery (Property Assets & Facilities Management) and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

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| 210 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 210 |
| | <p>Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McKenzie, with Councillor Moran substituting, and Rev A MacLean and Rev C McGranaghan, Church Representatives.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were intimated.</p> | |
| 211 | Education Scotland Report on Mearns Centre | 211 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities on the results of the Education Scotland external evaluation of Mearns Centre, Greenock. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, one aspect of the Centre had been judged to be "very good", two to be "good" and two to be "satisfactory". Mr Bill Crossan, Head of Education at Mearns Centre, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the external evaluation report.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee endorse the comments made following the external evaluation of Mearns Centre, Greenock; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.</p> | |
| 212 | Education & Lifelong Learning 2011/12 Revenue Budget - Period 9 | 212 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education & Communities on the position of the Revenue Budget 2011/12 as at Period 9 (31 December 2011) which currently projected an underspend of £165,000.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the current projected underspend of £165,000 for 2011/12 as at Period 9 be noted; and</p> | |

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(2) that approval be given to the virements totalling £175,500 detailed in appendix 4 to the report.

213 Capital Programme 2011-15/16 - Progress

213

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities and the Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2011-15/16.

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 addition of the Moorfoot Primary School replacement windows and curtain walling project and the issue of tenders for the work and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept the lowest acceptable tender provided that the cost is within the available funding for the project;
- (3) that the Committee note and approve the additional expenditure of £190,400 in the Whinhill Primary School (refurbishment of former Overton Primary School) project detailed in appendix 2; and
- (4) that approval be given to the utilisation of the overall Capital Programme contingency allowance to address the over-expenditure referred to in decision (2) above.

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

214 Addendum Relative to Agenda Item 4

214

There was submitted addendum by the Corporate Director Education & Communities and Chief Financial Officer to agenda item 4 (Capital Programme 2011-15/16 - Progress) relative to the Mearns Centre (refurbishment of St Laurence's Primary School) project.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note and approve the additional expenditure on the Mearns Centre (refurbishment of St Laurence's Primary School) project which has reduced from a projected amount of £285,000 (13.28%) to £193,000 (8.97%);
- (2) that approval be given to utilisation of the overall Capital Programme contingency allowances to address the additional expenditure required; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept the lowest tender received for the project, that by Central Building Contractors (Glasgow) Ltd in the sum of £2,164,285.17.

215 Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence

215

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities providing information on the progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

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

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- 216 Mr Iain Mills 216**
- The Convener referred at this point to the forthcoming retiral of Mr Iain Mills, Quality Improvement Manager. On behalf of the Committee, he thanked Mr Mills for his contribution to Education Services over the years and extended his best wishes for a long and happy retirement.
- Councillor Fyfe left the meeting at this juncture.
- 217 Prioritisation and Acceleration of Primary School Refurbishment Programme 217**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities on proposals in respect of the prioritisation and acceleration of aspects of the Primary School Refurbishment Programme which forms part of the School Estate Management Plan.
- (Councillors Grieve and Blair left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the current condition and suitability of the properties as contained in appendix 1 to the report and approve the proposed programme for the primary school refurbishment to 2016 as detailed in paragraph 5.1;
 - (2) that the Committee note the report on the proposed acceleration of aspects of the primary school refurbishment programme as detailed in section 6 and approve the projects detailed in appendix 2; and
 - (3) that approval be given to the revised Funding Model highlighted in paragraph 7.2 and included as appendices 4.1 and 4.2.
- 218 Communication Friendly Schools 218**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities informing the Committee of the plan gradually to develop Communication Friendly educational establishments throughout Inverclyde.
- Noted**
- Councillor McCabe left the meeting at this juncture.
- 219 Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum 219**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Communities providing an update on the progress of the Additional Support Needs Monitoring Forum (ASNMF).
- Decided:** that the Committee note the positive progress which has been made through the ASNMF in meeting children's needs more effectively.