

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 30 OCTOBER 2012**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 30 October 2012 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Brennan, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, Shepherd and Wilson, Rev F Donaldson and Father M McMahon, Church Representatives, Mr R Thomson, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

**Chair:** Councillor Loughran presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Ms E Hamilton and Ms P Allan (Education Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Libraries, Museum and Archives Manager, Mr F Jarvie (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Chief Financial Officer, Mr I Cameron and Ms A Edmiston (Finance 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.**

**632 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

**632**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Grieve, Jones and Rev MacLean.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:-

Agenda Item 3 (Clune Park Regeneration: Progress Report) - Councillors McCabe, McEleny and Wilson.

Agenda Item 4 (Transfer of Exhibit from McLean Museum and Art Gallery) - Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson.

**633 Communities 2012/13 Revenue Budget Period 5 to 31 August 2012 and Capital Report 2012/16 - Progress**

**633**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the 2012/13 Revenue Budget position as at period 5 to 31 August 2012 and (2) the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2012/16 and the overall financial position.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £108,000 in the 2012/13 Revenue Budget as at 31 August 2012; and

(2) that the progress of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2012/16 be noted.

- 634 Clune Park Regeneration: Progress Report 634**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on the proposed regeneration of the Clune Park Area, Port Glasgow. Councillors McCabe and McEleny declared non-financial interests in this matter as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as a Director of Link Housing Association. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the current progress towards the regeneration of the Clune Park Area of Port Glasgow; and
  - (2) that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.
- 635 Transfer of Exhibit from McLean Museum and Art Gallery 635**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the transfer of ownership of an item from the collections of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery to Riverside Inverclyde. Councillors Clocherty, McCabe and Wilson declared non-financial interests in this matter as members of the Board of Riverside Inverclyde. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the transfer of ownership of the “Torch” engine from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery collection to Riverside Inverclyde on the basis set out in the report.
- 636 Better Regulation Consultation 636**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of Inverclyde Council’s response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on proposals for a Better Regulation Bill.
- Decided:** that the response by Inverclyde Council to the consultation on the Better Regulation Bill detailed in the report be noted.
- 637 Prison Watch Scotland (HMP Greenock) 637**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities advising of the introduction of Prison Watch Scotland (HMP Greenock) which provides an opportunity for members of the public to report any suspicious or criminal activity in and around the prison using a dedicated telephone number.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the progress of Prison Watch at HMP Greenock.
- The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Father McMahan, Rev Donaldson, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting at this point.**

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Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed Rev Fraser Donaldson, who had recently been appointed as the third religious representative on the Committee.

**638 Education 2012/13 Revenue Budget - Period 5 to 31 August 2012 638**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2012/13 Revenue Budget position as at period 5 to 31 August 2012.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £259,000 for 2012/13 as at 31 August 2012; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £23,000 detailed in appendix 4 to the report.

**639 Education Capital Programme 2012 - 16/17 - Progress 639**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2012-16/17.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that the Committee note the review of the School Estate Funding Model which is a separate item on the agenda.

**640 Review of School Estate Funding Model 2012 640**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the current position of the School Estate Funding Model and (2) seeking approval of the revised model.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the revised Funding Model and associated changes highlighted in paragraph 6.1 of the report; and
- (2) that it be noted that the financial implications of the revised model will be built in to the Council's revised Financial Strategy to be submitted to the Inverclyde Council in December 2012.

**The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be informed of the opportunities arising from the annual review of the School Estate Management Plan Funding Model at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.**

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- 641 School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) - Review of Funding Model and Possible Opportunities 641**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer advising the Committee of the opportunities arising from the annual review of the SEMP Funding Model.
- Decided:**
- (1) that support be given to the proposals contained in the report, that the Council Leader write to the Government seeking increased Government Grant towards the proposal and that the Committee be provided with updates in respect of the Government's response;
  - (2) that the financial implications be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee and thereafter fed into the 2013/16 budget process;
  - (3) that Officers communicate the Committee's decisions to the affected schools; and
  - (4) that it be agreed that Highlanders Academy is no longer surplus to requirements and that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee seeking approval to bring the school back into use as temporary decant accommodation to support the SEMP.
- 642 Education, Communities & Organisational Development Directorate Performance Report 642**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the progress made by the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Directorate in achieving its objectives as set out in the current Directorate Plan.
- Decided:** that the Committee endorse the progress in the reported areas of the Directorate's work.
- 643 Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence 643**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development 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.
- Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.
- 644 Additional Support Needs (ASN) Preventative Spend 644**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on proposals for an initial investment in Additional Support Needs (ASN) services with a view to accruing significant savings. There was circulated to the Committee, replacement paragraph 6.1 of the report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve an initial investment in ASN services as detailed in the report in order to accrue significant savings; and
  - (2) that it be noted that the investment will start to pay back in two years' time and will begin to produce savings in three years.

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- 645 Talented Children and Young Persons Fund 645**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the use of the endowment for talented children and young people in Inverclyde.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the report and the continued support provided to talented young people in Inverclyde; and
  - (2) that the annual accounts for the Talented Children and Young Persons Fund for the year ending 31 March 2012 be noted.
- 646 School Leaver Destination Results Follow-Up Exercise 2010-11 646**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with information relating to the exercise undertaken in spring 2012 as a follow-up to the school leaver destination results of 2010-11.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the statistical information contained in the report relating to school leaver destinations.
- 647 Parental Involvement Strategy 647**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the contents of the review of the Parental Involvement Strategy and the development plans for the coming years.  
(Mr Thomson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:** that the Committee note the review of the Parental Involvement Strategy and the development plans for future years.
- 648 School Green Charters 648**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on School Green Charters.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the report be noted; and
  - (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the position in relation to the Walking to School and Cycling to School Initiatives.
- 649 Permission to Seek Tenders for the Provision of Mainstream School Transport to Commence in August 2013 649**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting authority to obtain tenders for the provision of mainstream school transport services with a value greater than £250,000 and also transport for Ardgowan Primary School pupils during the time of their location within the former Sacred Heart Primary School building.
- Decided:** that authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to seek tenders for transport services for (i) mainstream pupils for up to four years in line with the rolling programme of contracts and (ii) Ardgowan Primary School pupils during the period of their location within the former Sacred Heart Primary School building.