

Education & Communities Committee**Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 3 pm**

Present: Councillors Brennan, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Grieve, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, MacLeod (for 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, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr F Jarvie (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Health Protection Service Manager, Corporate Communications Manager, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Service Manager School Estate and Quality Improvement Manager - Early Years.

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

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| 187 | Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest | 187 |
| | <p>Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McEleny, with Councillor MacLeod substituting, and Rev MacLean.</p> <p>Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:-</p> <p>Agenda Item 5 (Support for Owners Fund - Update) - Councillor McCabe.</p> <p>Additional Item: (Payment to Inverclyde Leisure - Closure of Nelson Street Sports Centre) - Councillors Loughran, McColgan and Wilson.</p> | |
| 188 | Communities 2012/13 Revenue Budget Report - Period 10 and Capital Report 2012/16 - Progress | 188 |
| | <p>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 10 to 31 January 2013 and (2) the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2012/16 and the overall financial position.</p> <p>Decided:</p> <p>(1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £51,000 for the 2012/13 Revenue Budget as at 31 January 2013; and</p> <p>(2) that the Committee note the progress of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2012/16.</p> | |
| 189 | Clune Park Regeneration: Progress Report | 189 |
| | <p>There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on the proposed regeneration of the Clune Park area of Port Glasgow.</p> | |

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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.

190 Scheme of Assistance 2013/14 Budget 190

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing information on the proposed 2013/14 Scheme of Assistance Budget, subject to confirmation of the final out-turn figures following completion of year end procedures and the subsequent carry forward of committed budgets from 2012/13.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed 2013/14 Scheme of Assistance Budget as set out in appendix 1 to the report be agreed; and
- (2) that the amount of carry forward from the 2012/13 budget for works which are committed but not yet started and which will be confirmed at year end, be noted.

191 Support for Owners Fund Update 191

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on the current position with regard to the Support for Owners Fund and information received from River Clyde Homes on the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) Investment Programme.

Councillor McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this matter as a member of the Board of River Clyde Homes. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision making process.

Decided: that the Committee note:

- (1) the current position of the 2012/13 Support for Owners Fund;
- (2) the projected budget for the 2013/14 Support for Owners Fund;
- (3) the receipt of the formal offer of grant from the Scottish Government; and
- (4) the requirement to agree a prioritisation system with River Clyde Homes.

192 Sport Framework Development - Update 192

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on progress made in the development of the Inverclyde Sport Framework.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in developing a framework for sport in Inverclyde; and
- (2) that approval be given to an early consultation on the principles and high level aims of such a framework.

193 Audit Scotland Report - Protecting Consumers 193

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the findings of the Audit Scotland report "Protecting Consumers" and (2) providing some local context to the report.

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

Decided:

- (1) that it be remitted to Safer & Inclusive Communities to engage fully with COSLA and Trading Standards Services across Scotland to seek a better long-term model in the delivery of services covering direct transactions between consumers and businesses;
- (2) that it be remitted to Safer & Inclusive Communities to engage fully with APSE to develop a consistent and meaningful set of benchmarking indicators for Environmental Health and Trading Standards which will allow better comparisons with more closely related authorities; and
- (3) that an update on progress made in relation to decision (1) above be reported to the Committee in due course and that progress made in relation to decision (2) above be reported through the Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan.

194 Consultation on Proposals for a National Local Authority Enforcement Code - Health and Safety at Work, England, Scotland and Wales 194

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of proposals for amending the way in which Health and Safety inspections will be carried out by Local Authorities throughout the UK and the response to these proposals made by Safer & Inclusive Communities.

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the response to the consultation detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that an update on actions arising from the final Code be reported to the Committee in due course.

195 Delegated Powers Update 195

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to update the delegated powers of the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities with respect to the authorisation of officers.

Decided:

- (1) that the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities be given delegated powers to authorise officers under the Acts contained in appendix 1 and regulations made thereunder; and
- (2) that the delegated powers of the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Acts contained in appendix 2 and regulations made thereunder be re-affirmed.

196 Proposed School of Football - Port Glasgow Community Campus 196

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to approve the formation of a "School of Football" at Port Glasgow Community Campus.

Decided: that approval be given to the formation of a "School of Football" at Port Glasgow Community Campus covering both the St Stephen's and Port Glasgow High School clusters.

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The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Chief Financial Officer relative to a proposed payment to Inverclyde Leisure was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to consider making payment 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 during consideration of the following two items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Negotiation of Agreement with Greenock Morton Football Club	6 & 9
Payment to Inverclyde Leisure - Closure of Nelson Street Sports Centre	6 & 8

197 Negotiation of Agreement with Greenock Morton Football Club 197

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee of recent developments regarding the Council's relationship with Greenock Morton Football Club and (2) seeking delegated authority for the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to negotiate an agreement regarding pitch access and usage with the Club.

Decided:

- (1) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to develop a detailed Memorandum of Understanding with Greenock Morton Football Club on access to facilities and co-operation between the Club and the Council and that details of the Memorandum of Understanding be reported back to the Committee; and
- (2) that proposals for consultation with the wider youth football movement in Inverclyde be submitted to the Committee.

198 Payment to Inverclyde Leisure - Closure of Nelson Street Sports Centre 198

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to make a one-off payment to Inverclyde Leisure to compensate them for loss of income during the recent closure of Nelson Street Sports Centre, which was approved, all as detailed in the appendix.

Councillors Loughran, McColgan and Wilson declared non-financial interests in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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.

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.40 pm with Rev Donaldson, Father McMahon, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting at this point.

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- 199 Education Scotland Report on Wemyss Bay Primary School 199**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland report on Wemyss Bay Primary School. The report advised that of the indicators of quality, 3 had been evaluated as "very good" and 4 as "good".
Ms Alison Irvine, Head Teacher, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the external evaluation report.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve the Education Scotland external evaluation of Wemyss Bay Primary School; and
 - (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all those involved in the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.
- 200 Education Scotland Report on Wellington Pre-5 Nursery, Playgroup and Out-of-School Care 200**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland report on Wellington Pre-5 Nursery, Playgroup and Out-of-School Care. The report advised that the 5 indicators of quality had been evaluated as "satisfactory".
Ms Linda Wilkie, Quality Improvement Manager - Early Years, was present and addressed the Committee relative to the external evaluation report.
- Decided:** that the Committee approve the report on Wellington Pre-5 Nursery, Playgroup and Out-of-School Care.
- 201 Education 2012/13 Revenue Budget - Period 10 201**
- There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2012/13 Revenue Budget as at Period 10 to 31 January 2013.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £202,000 for 2012/13 as at 31 January 2013; and
 - (2) that the virement of £30,000 as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report be approved.
- 202 Education Capital Programme 2012 - 16/17 - Progress 202**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.
- 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 issue of tenders for the St Mary's Primary School re-wiring project and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to accept the lowest acceptable tender provided that this is within the approved project budget; and
 - (3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to report to the Committee on the possibility of taking

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forward a limited refurbishment of the Kilmacolm Primary School toilets following further consultation with the school.

203 Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence 203

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.

There was circulated to the Committee, Appendix 1(b) on school leaver destination results.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the ongoing progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde; and
- (2) that a briefing be arranged for Committee Members on the Senior Phase.

204 GIRFEC Champions Launch 204

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) informing the Committee of the approach taken by Education Services to taking forward "Getting It Right For Every Child, Citizen and Community" (GIRFEC) and developing a "Nurturing Inverclyde" and (2) setting out the implications of the associated Children and Young People Bill for Education Services.

It was noted that since the writing of the report, Inverclyde Council had been successful in achieving a gold award for "Nurturing Inverclyde" at the COSLA Excellence Awards 2013.

Decided: that the Committee note and support the approach taken by Education Services to nominate two GIRFEC Champions from each education establishment in Inverclyde.

205 The Naming of the New Mearns Centre 205

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to determine a name for the new Mearns Centre following the new-build at the site of the old St Laurence's Primary School.

Decided: that the name of the new provision be Lomond View Academy.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to take action in response to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

206 Proposal of James Watt College to Close and Transfer its Property and Rights to Clydebank College and Ayr College 206

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending correspondence received from the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning relative to the proposal of James Watt College to close and transfer its property and rights to Clydebank and Ayr Colleges.

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Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Convener, Vice-Convener and SNP spokesperson to respond to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning, on behalf of Inverclyde Council.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development relative to Tree Tops Community Nursery was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be advised of the situation at the Nursery as soon as possible. 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 during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

207 Tree Tops Community Nursery**207**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the situation at Tree Tops Community Nursery, Port Glasgow.

Decided:

- (1) that Education Services continue to provide support to Tree Tops Community Nursery;
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Corporate Management Team regarding the availability of placements and any proposed developments in early years provision in Port Glasgow; and
- (3) that an action plan be developed to address the issues if Tree Tops Community Nursery closes before June 2013.