

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 6 MAY 2014**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 6 May 2014 at 3pm**

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

**Present also:** Councillor MacLeod.

**Chair:** Councillor Loughran presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Mr I Cameron (for Head of Finance), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Ms G Bond (Education Services), Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Ms L Wilkie, Quality Improvement Manager, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Service Manager, School Estate and Mr M Bingham (Corporate Communications).

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

**321      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      321**

No apologies for absence were intimated.

Councillor McEleny declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 (Scheme of Assistance - Review) and Councillor Campbell-Sturgess declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 (A Framework for Sport in Inverclyde - Update).

**322      Communities 2013/14 Revenue Budget Report - Period 11 to 28 February 2014 and Capital Report 2013/16 - Progress      322**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the 2013/14 Revenue Budget position as at Period 11 to 28 February 2014 and (2) the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2013/16 and the overall financial position.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £108,000 for the 2013/14 Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2014; and
- (2) that the progress of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2013/16 be noted.

**323      Pitch and School Lets Outstanding Debts as at 31 January 2014      323**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the level of

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outstanding debts for pitch and school lets as at Period 10 to 31 January 2014.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the historical debt of £9,145 for pitch and school lets invoices raised prior to April 2010 by Inverclyde Council; and
- (2) that the Committee note the current outstanding debt of £42,490 for invoices raised by Inverclyde Leisure since April 2010.

**324 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report****324**

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.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress to date and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee; and
- (2) that a report providing a breakdown of the costs involved in the regeneration project be submitted to the Committee.

**325 Scheme of Assistance - Review****325**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities seeking approval of the Council's revised Scheme of Assistance statement required by Section 72 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

Councillor McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item 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 approval be given to the revised Scheme of Assistance set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

**326 A Framework for Sport in Inverclyde - Update****326**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the final draft of the Inverclyde Sports Framework and the establishment of a steering group to oversee implementation of the Framework.

Councillor Campbell-Sturgess declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. 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:**

- (1) that approval be given to the final draft of the Sports Framework;
- (2) that it be agreed that Council policy in relation to sport in Inverclyde be guided by the priorities and outcomes of the Framework;
- (3) that agreement be given to the continuation of the Sports Framework Development Group as a steering group to oversee implementation of the Framework in Inverclyde; and
- (4) that a progress report be submitted to the Committee on an annual basis.

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**327 Inverclyde Community Sports Hub Update 327**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the site of the third Community Sports Hub in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the siting of the third Community Sports Hub in Gourrock;
- (2) that a more detailed report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the operation of Sports Hubs and the benefits arising from these; and
- (3) that a presentation on the subject be made to Elected Members.

**328 Update on Policy on Waivers to Let - Football 328**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on proposed changes to the rules applied to the free use of pitches for under 19 teams.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the allocation rules detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

**329 Construction Licensing Executive 329**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the Trading Standards Service to promote the Construction Licensing Executive to local businesses and consumers.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the promotion of the Construction Licensing Executive to businesses and consumers in Inverclyde.

**330 Greenock Town Centre Extra Policing - Progress Report 330**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources providing information relative to the Greenock Town Centre Policing Initiative agreed by the Council in February 2013.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the content of the interim update prepared by Police Scotland in relation to the extra policing for Greenock Town Centre;
- (2) that the Committee note and welcome the increased targets for 2014/2015 proposed by Police Scotland; and
- (3) that it be agreed that a further update be submitted to the Committee in autumn 2014.

**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 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 the heading to each item.**

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph(s)</b>
<b>Clune Park Regeneration Plan - Structural Conditions Update</b>	<b>6 and 13</b>
<b>Development of Inverkip Community Facility - Progress</b>	<b>6 and 8</b>
<b>Proposed Transfer of Site of Craigend Resource Centre</b>	<b>2, 6 and 9</b>

Prior to consideration of the undernoted items of business, the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development made a statement on the current legal correspondence with Port Glasgow Juniors Football Club.

Councillor McEleny declared an interest in this matter as a former Port Glasgow Juniors Football Club player. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber.

The Committee noted the position as set out in the statement.

**331 Clune Park Regeneration Plan - Structural Conditions Update 331**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of recent and significant developments in relation to a major structural defect in the tenement buildings in the Clune Park area and how this impacts on the current regeneration plan.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Council make Demolition Orders in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 on the houses listed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) that it be noted that a short term working group has been set up with relevant Council services and external partners to address the re-housing needs of the owner-occupiers and tenants in the Clune Park area;
- (3) that the Committee note the consideration of the use of compulsory purchase powers as referred to in paragraph 6.2 of the report in respect of the acquisition of all 45 tenements in the Clune Park area; and
- (4) that approval be given to the awarding of financial assistance to eligible owner-occupiers in the Clune Park area under the Council's powers to advance wellbeing as detailed in paragraph 6.3.

**332 Development of Inverkip Community Facility - Progress Report 332**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the progress regarding the development of Inverkip Community Facility and (2) seeking approval in relation to a number of matters which the Committee agreed, all as detailed in the appendix.

**333 Proposed Transfer of Site of Craigend Resource Centre 333**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on a proposal to transfer the site of the Craigend Resource Centre and the Committee agreed to the action recommended, all as detailed in the appendix.

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**The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.55pm with Rev McLean, Rev Donaldson, Father McMahon, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting.**

**334 Education Scotland Inspection Report on Notre Dame High School 334**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland external evaluation of Notre Dame High School. The report advised that in the indicators of quality, 2 aspects of the school had been judged to be "very good" and 3 aspects to be "good".

Mr Grant McGovern, Head Teacher, was present and spoke in relation to the report.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the Education Scotland Inspection Report on Notre Dame High School; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff, pupils and parents for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

**335 Education 2013/14 Revenue Budget - Period 11 to 28 February 2014 335**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the Education Revenue Budget 2013/14 as at Period 11 to 28 February 2014 which projected an underspend, excluding earmarked reserves, of £81,000.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the projected underspend of £81,000 for the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2014.

**336 Education Capital Programme 2013-2015/16 - Progress 336**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Head of Finance (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1.

**337 Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence 337**

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

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the ongoing progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde;
- (2) that a report on numeracy be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to review the S4 study leave arrangements for the 2014 exam diet.

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- 338 School Estate 2014 Core Facts Submission 338**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the School Estate and the Core Facts return for 2014.  
(Mr Tracey left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).  
During the course of discussion on this item, the Convener referred to the imminent retiral of Mr Andrew Gerrard, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management. He paid tribute to Mr Gerrard's many years of service to the Council, making particular reference to his work on the School Estate. On behalf of the Committee, he conveyed his best wishes to Mr Gerrard for a long and happy retirement.  
**Decided:** that the report be noted.
- 339 General Teaching Council for Scotland - Professional Update 339**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information on Professional Update which will be a responsibility of all teachers in Inverclyde from August 2014.  
(Mr Tracey returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).  
**Decided:**  
(1) that the progress being made with the preparation for Professional Update which comes into effect in August 2014 be noted; and  
(2) that regular progress reports on the implementation of Professional Update be submitted to the Committee.
- 340 Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) - Academic Year 2014/15 340**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the continuation of the grant from the Scottish Government for the purposes of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Scotland programme.  
**Decided:** that the report be noted.
- 341 Admissions and Placing Requests for Primary 1 and Secondary 1 Pupils in School Session 2014/15 341**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the Committee with the details of the decisions agreed by the Pupil Placement Panel relating to admissions and placing requests for school session 2014/15 affecting Primary 1 and Secondary 1 pupils.  
**Decided:** that the Committee note the admissions and placing requests granted for the school session 2014/15.
- 342 600 Hours for 2 Year Olds from Workless Households 342**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) details of the development of provision of childcare to 2 year olds from workless households from August 2014 and (2) information on the resource requirements and financial implications of the increase in entitlement.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the model for delivery of 600 hours of provision for children from workless households as of August 2014 subject to funding from the Scottish Government;
- (2) that it be agreed that vulnerable children continue to be prioritised for placements;
- (3) that it be agreed that there is no longer a requirement to review provision in the east end of Greenock;
- (4) that the financial commitments as detailed in the report be agreed; and
- (5) that it be noted that a further report detailing developments for 2015 will be submitted to the Committee in September 2014.

**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.**

**343 School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) - Result of Tenders for Contracts 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 343**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to accept tenders for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of school session 2014/15.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the acceptance of the tenders as set out in Appendix 1 for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of school session 2014/15.