

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 4 NOVEMBER 2014**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 4 November 2014 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Brennan, MacLeod (for Brooks), Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, Jones, Shepherd and Wilson, Mr T Macdougall, 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 Head of Finance), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager, Lead Officer, Community Learning & Development, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, School Estate Manager, Corporate Communications Manager 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.**

**687      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      687**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Brooks with Councillor MacLeod substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 4 (Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report) – Councillor Wilson.  
 Agenda Item 7 (Ravenscraig Sports Barn – Community Consultation) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, MacLeod and McColgan.  
 Agenda Item 15 (Kilmacolm Primary School Project Options) – Councillor McCabe.

**688      Communities 2014/15 Revenue Budget Report - Period 5 to 31 August 2014      688**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2014/15 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 5 to 31 August 2014.

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

**Decided:** that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £144,000 in the 2014/15 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2014.

**689      Communities Capital Programme 2014 to 2016/17 - Progress      689**

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

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

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business).

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the allocation of funding from the Capital Allowance for the Watt Complex project to deal with the rot works as outlined in section 6 of the report.

**690 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 690**

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. Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Director of Link Housing Association. 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 the Committee note the progress to date in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee; and
- (2) that approval be given to the criteria for assessing well maintained payments as outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

**691 Enhancing Community Engagement 691**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee of the findings and proposals arising from a series of workshops which took place in March 2014 involving Officers, Elected Members and Community Organisations and (2) seeking approval for implementation plans to progress actions with a view to enhancing community engagement.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the findings and proposals arising from the series of workshops which took place in March 2014; and
- (2) that approval be given to the implementation plans to progress actions with a view to enhancing community engagement, as set out in the report.

**692 Private Sector Housing – Repair and Maintenance Strategy 692**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities seeking approval for a revised strategy to tackle housing disrepair by ensuring that owners take reasonable steps to secure the repair and maintenance of private housing in Inverclyde.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the proposal to withdraw from carrying out repair works to private property in default of statutory notices, except where there is a statutory duty on the Council to do so, or otherwise in exceptional circumstances as outlined in section 5 of the report.

**693 Ravensraig Sports Barn – Community Consultation 693**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the community consultation on the future

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use of Ravenscraig Sports Barn.

Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, MacLeod and McColgan declared non-financial interests in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. Each Member 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 the results of the community consultation on the future development of Ravenscraig Sports Barn be noted; and

(2) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to progress the project in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure and to submit a final report to the Committee in due course.

**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.**

**694 Service of Closing Order under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987**

**694**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities advising of the use of delegated authority to make a Closing Order on the ground floor, first left flat (0/1), 22 Prospecthill Street, Greenock PA15 4DL.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the use of delegated authority by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to make a Closing Order in respect of the ground floor first left flat (0/1) at 22 Prospecthill Street, Greenock PA15 4DL.

**The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.45pm with Mr Macdougall, Rev Donaldson, Father McMahon, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting.**

**695 Education Scotland Report on St Patrick's Primary School**

**695**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland external evaluation of St Patrick's Primary School, Greenock. The report advised that in the Indicators of Quality, five aspects of the school had been judged to be "good".

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee approve the Education Scotland inspection report on St Patrick's Primary School; and

(2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff, pupils and parents for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

**696 Education 2014/15 Revenue Budget - Period 5 to 31 August 2014**

**696**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2014/15 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2014.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £91,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2014; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the virement of £50,000 as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report.

**697 Education Capital Programme 2014-2016/17 – Progress****697**

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:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that the Committee note the tender return position and savings exercise carried out in respect of the St Ninian's Primary School multi-use games area project and approve (a) utilisation of £55,000 from the £1.1m primary school multi-use games area budget and (b) acceptance of the adjusted lowest acceptable tender, subject to planning approval being granted;
- (3) that approval be given to progress the Kilmacolm Primary School multi-use games area as part of the main refurbishment project as outlined in sections 8.1 and 9.1 of the report;
- (4) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for the primary school multi-use games area as outlined in section 10.1 of the report and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept the lowest acceptable tender provided the cost is within the budget allocation for the project; and
- (5) that the Committee note the review of the School Estate Funding Model which is a separate item on the agenda.

**698 Development of IYouthzones in Gourock and Port Glasgow****698**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on proposals for the development of IYouthzones in Gourock and Port Glasgow.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in establishing IYouthzone facilities in Gourock and Port Glasgow;
- (2) that approval be given to the projected expenditure of earmarked reserves;
- (3) that approval be given to the location of the IYouthzones in the former Gamble Nursery, King Street, Gourock and the former library building, Dubbs Place, Port Glasgow; and
- (4) that it be noted that an additional report on the sustainability of the IYouthzones will be prepared for consideration as part of the budget process.

**699 Review of School Estate Funding Model 2014****699**

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

**Decided:**

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- (1) that the Committee approve the revised School Estate Funding Model and the associated changes/revisions highlighted in sections 4 and 5 of the report;
- (2) that the Committee note that the financial implications of the revised Model will be built into the Council's revised financial strategy due to be submitted to the Council in December 2014; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the appropriate Officers to examine, as part of the budget process, the potential for bringing forward the refurbishment projects at Moorfoot and St Ninian's Primary Schools.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

### 700 Amendments to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 700

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of the key points set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the key points set out in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

### 701 Free School Meals P1 – P3 Pupils 701

There was submitted amended report by the Head of Education (1) summarising the proposed national framework for delivery of free school meals to P1 - P3 pupils and (2) outlining the proposed local implementation of this policy.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the report and the work being carried out to prepare for the implementation of the policy in local primary schools; and
- (2) that a report providing an update on the experience of implementing the policy be submitted to the Committee in March 2015.

### 702 Kilmacolm Primary School - Project Options 702

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of options for Kilmacolm Primary School in connection with the proposed refurbishment project which is programmed to commence in 2015.

Councillor McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this item as a parent of a pupil attending Kilmacolm Primary School. 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 the Committee note the results of the consultation exercise in respect of options for the progression of the Kilmacolm Primary School refurbishment project;
- (2) that it be agreed to utilise the former St Stephen's High School for the decant of Kilmacolm Primary School for the duration of the planned major refurbishment works; and
- (3) that it be agreed to use temporary modular accommodation within the grounds of Kilmacolm Primary School for the temporary decant of Kilmacolm Nursery class for the duration of the planned major refurbishment works.

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**703 Remit from Policy & Resources Committee****703**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on a remit from the Policy & Resources Committee of 30 September 2014 relative to options to achieve a saving of £20,000 from the Education Budget as part of the 2015/16 budget proposals.

**Decided:** that approval be given to Option 1 (Supported Study Budget) as the proposed £20,000 saving.

**704 Items for Noting****704**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information, for noting, on (1) Professional Update, (2) Adult Learning in Scotland: Statement of Ambition, (3) Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Chances of Young People in Scotland: National Youth Work Strategy 2014 – 2019, (4) Schools Sport Competition, (5) National School Sports Awards and (6) Update on 600 Hours of Early Learning and Childcare.

**Noted**

**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.**

**705 Education Capital Programme 2014 - 2016/17 – Progress - Addendum****705**

There was submitted addendum to the Education Capital Programme 2014 – 2016/17 progress report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Head of Finance providing an update on the St John's Primary School project.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note and approve the proposed additional expenditure on the St John's Primary School project;
- (2) that approval be given to the utilisation of the Capital Programme contingency allowance and Children and Young People Bill allocation to address the over expenditure as detailed in the report; and
- (3) that approval be given to the acceptance of the tender submitted by Central Building Contractors Limited in the sum of £2.796m including all associated direct costs and for the issue of a formal letter of acceptance by the Head of Legal & Property Services.