

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 20 January 2015 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, Jones, Shepherd and Wilson, Mr T Macdougall and Father M McMahan, Church Representatives 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 A Edmiston (Finance Services), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Ms G Bond and Mr R Cuthbert (Education & Communities), Ms F Riddell (Corporate Communications), Head of Education, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Ms E Hamilton, Quality Improvement Manager, Ms E Robertson (Education & Communities) and School Estate Manager.

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

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

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An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr R Thomson, Parent Representative.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 4 (Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report) – Councillor Wilson.
 Agenda Item 5 (Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Monitoring Report December 2014 and Progress Report on Strategy Implementation) – Councillors McCabe, McEleny and Wilson.
 Agenda Item 6 (Community Sports Hub Update) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan.
 Agenda Item 7 (Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020 and Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015) – Councillors McCabe, McEleny and Wilson.
 Agenda Item 21 (Ravenscraig Sports Barn Development – Funding Model) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan.

48 **Communities 2014/15 Revenue Budget Report - Period 7 to 31 October 2014**

48

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2014/15 Revenue Budget position as at Period 7 to 31 October 2014.

Decided: that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £190,000 in the 2014/15 Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2014.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

49 Communities Capital Programme 2014 to 2016/17 - Progress**49**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme, (2) highlighting the overall financial position and (3) seeking authority to invite tenders for the Inverkip Community Facility project.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (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 outlined in section 6 of the report; and
- (3) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for the Inverkip Community Facility and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to accept the most economically advantageous tender received.

50 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report**50**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities 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 discretionary payments as outlined in paragraph 6.4 of the report.

51 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Monitoring Report December 2014 and Progress Report on Strategy Implementation**51**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities (1) on the monitoring of the Local Housing Strategy and (2) providing an update on the progress of wider housing strategy work.

Councillors McCabe and McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as a Director of Link and Larkfield Housing Associations. 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 monitoring report to the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Steering Group of December 2014 and the progress made in implementing the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy to date; and
- (2) that a report on the setting up of the one-stop shop for housing access and advice be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

52 Community Sports Hub Update**52**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on progress with the existing community sports hubs in Inverclyde, (2) seeking approval for the proposed fourth community sports hub and (3) seeking approval for the principle of a reduction in price for pitch and hall rental for adult teams actively participating in community sports hubs. Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan declared a non-financial interest 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.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note developments in the provision of community sports hubs in Inverclyde to date;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed fourth community sports hub as detailed in the report; and
- (3) that approval in principle be given to a percentage reduction for adult clubs which are actively involved in hubs when playing in lettable facilities within those hubs and delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to agree a suitable rate with Inverclyde Leisure.

53 Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020 and Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015**53**

There was submitted replacement report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities (1) seeking approval for the submission to the Scottish Government of a new five year Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) covering the period 2015-2020 and (2) providing an update on changes to the Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015.

Councillors McCabe and McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as a Director of Link and Larkfield Housing Associations. 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 approval be given to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the five year period from 2015-2020 as submitted by Inverclyde Council to the Scottish Government in November 2014; and
- (2) that the Committee note the projects included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020 as detailed in the appendix to the report and the underspend in the Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015 as detailed in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

54 Delegated Powers**54**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under a number of Acts and Regulations.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

Decided:

- (1) that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970; and
 (2) that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under regulations made under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

55 Rankin Park – Developing Potential as a Mountain Bike Hub 55

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to progress with the potential development of Rankin Park as a mountain bike hub.

Decided: that agreement be given to provide match funding of up to £150,000 for an Active Places funding bid from Free Reserves, subject to approval through the budget process.

56 Lady Alice and Rankin Park Bowling Clubs 56

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

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 paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

57 Service of Closing Order under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 57

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 basement flat, 10A Wellington Street, Greenock PA15 4QB.

Decided: that the Committee note the use of delegated authority by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to make a Closing Order over the basement flat, 10A Wellington Street, Greenock PA15 4QB.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

58 Ravenscraig Sports Barn Development – Funding Model 58

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the funding model for the redevelopment of Ravenscraig Sports Barn.

Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan declared a non-financial interest 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 agree to the recommendations contained in the report, all as detailed in the appendix.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.30pm with Mr Macdougall, Father McMahon and Mr Tracey joining the meeting. Councillor Wilson also returned to the meeting at this point.

59 Education 2014/15 Revenue Budget – Period 7 to 31 October 2014 59

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2014/15 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2014.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £198,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2014; and
- (2) that information on breakfast club provision be included within the report on school meals provision in Inverclyde to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

60 Education Capital Programme 2014 – 2016/17 - Progress 60

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme, (2) highlighting the overall financial position and (3) providing a summary of the out-turn for the 2013/14 Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the allocation of £100,000 of the 2014/15 Lifecycle Fund to the Ardgowan Primary School refurbishment and extension project as outlined in paragraph 5.2; and
- (3) that the Committee note the use of emergency powers for the demolition of the former Greenock Academy building as detailed in a separate report on the agenda.

61 Education & Communities Directorate Performance Report 61

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development giving an update on the achievement of key objectives in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in implementing the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16; and
- (2) that the Committee agree to consider the fifth progress report at its meeting on 5 May 2015.

62 Review of S4 Study Leave Arrangements During Exam Diet 2014 62

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the review of the S4 study leave arrangements which were put in place during the SQA exam diet in 2014.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the outcome of the review of S4 study leave arrangements which were put in place during the SQA exam diet in 2014; and
- (2) that support be given to the proposed study leave arrangements for the SQA exam diet 2015 as outlined in section 6 of the report.

63 Ms Wilma Bain**63**

At this point, the Convener referred to the fact that this was Wilma Bain's last meeting of the Committee and, on behalf of the Committee Members, he thanked her for her years of service to the Council and extended his best wishes to her in her new post within South Lanarkshire Council.

64 School Term Dates – Session 2015/2016**64**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to amend the school term dates for session 2015/16 which were agreed by the Committee on 9 September 2014.

Decided: that it be agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow approval of the amended term dates for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

65 Update Paper on the Inverclyde Children and Young People Health & Wellbeing Survey 2013**65**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the follow-through work relating to the Inverclyde Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing Survey 2013 in schools.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report, in particular the varied levels of work undertaken in the use of the survey; and
- (2) that it be agreed to participate in the planned Inverclyde Alliance event in March 2015.

Councillor McEleny left the meeting at this juncture,

66 Items for Noting**66**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information, for noting, on (1) enhancing community engagement, (2) more Duke of Edinburgh success for Inverclyde and (3) GIRFEC/Early Years update.

Noted

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at this juncture.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2015

67 Former Greenock Academy Demolition – Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive 67

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept the lowest acceptable tender for the demolition of the former Greenock Academy building, that by Reigart Contracts in the amount of £211,597.

Noted**68 Update on Gourock Primary School Grass Pitch 68**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the condition and current use of the existing grass pitch at Gourock Primary School following a request from the May 2014 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report on the condition and current use of the existing grass pitch at Gourock Primary School;
- (2) that it be noted that the Education & Communities Capital Programme includes an allowance of £1.1M for 8 primary school multi-use games areas and £830,000 for the upgrading of three blaes pitches within primary schools but that there is no current allowance for works to the Gourock Primary School grass pitch; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to the Committee in 12 months' time to assess whether the improved maintenance arrangements have led to an increase in the availability of the pitch.