

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2015**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, 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 Chief Financial Officer), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Corporate Communications Manager, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Acting Head of Education, Ms E Robertson (Education Services) and School Estate Manager.

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

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

**194**

No apologies for absence were intimated.

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 2011-2016: Update) – Councillors McCabe and Wilson;  
 Agenda Item 6 (Policy for Access to All Sports and Leisure Pitches) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan;  
 Agenda Item 8 (Birkmyre Rugby Pitches - Update) – Councillor Wilson;  
 Agenda Item 11 (Governance Report for Externally Commissioned Services) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, McColgan, McCabe and Wilson.

**195 Communities 2014/15 Revenue Budget Report - Period 9 to 31 December 2014**

**195**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2014/15 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2014.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £208,000 in the 2014/15 Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2014.

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- 196 Communities Capital Programme 2014 to 2016/17 - Progress 196**
- 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 and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.
- Decided:** that the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 be noted.
- 197 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 197**
- 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:** 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.
- 198 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016: Update 198**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on (1) the progress of the one-stop shop for housing included within the Local Housing Strategy Action Plan, (2) the policy of promoting wheelchair housing and (3) Inverclyde Council's approach to the Scottish Government regarding the extension of the lifespan of the Local Housing Strategy from a 5 year to an 8 year strategy.
- Councillor McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this item as a member 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:** that the Committee note the report and that a further report on the proposed extension of the Local Housing Strategy timescale will be submitted in May 2015.
- 199 Policy for Access to all Sports and Leisure Pitches 199**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development recommending adoption of an access policy for all sports and leisure facilities owned or operated by the Council.
- Decided:**
- (1) that subject to amendment to the wording of the policy to make explicit reference to the inclusion of amateur football, approval be given to the policy for access to all sports and leisure pitches as detailed in appendix 1; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development in consultation with the Head of Legal & Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate funding agreements with specific clubs and organisations seeking financial support in accordance with the policy and existing budget provisions.

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**200 Food Safety and Health and Safety Enforcement Policies**

200

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of a new Food Safety and Standards Enforcement Policy and Workplace Health and Safety Enforcement Policy.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the new Food Safety and Standards Enforcement Policy and Workplace Health and Safety Enforcement Policy set out in the appendices to the report.

**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 3 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.**

Item	Paragraphs(s)
<b>Birkmyre Rugby Pitches – Update</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Lady Alice and Rankin Park Bowling Clubs</b>	<b>6, 8 and 9</b>
<b>Horticultural Training and Community Centre - Broomhill, Greenock</b>	<b>2, 6 and 9</b>

**201 Birkmyre Rugby Pitches – Update**

201

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the progress of the proposal to upgrade the rugby pitches at Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item due to a personal association with Birkmyre Rugby Club and St Columba's 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 report be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to submit a further detailed report to the Committee for consideration.

**202 Lady Alice and Rankin Park Bowling Clubs**

202

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the position with regard to Lady Alice and Rankin Park Bowling Clubs and (2) seeking authority to take action which was agreed, all as detailed in the appendix.

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- 203 Horticultural Training and Community Centre – Broomhill, Greenock 203**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the proposed development of the site of the former Mearns Centre and adjoining blaes pitch to Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) for the establishment of a new horticultural facility incorporating a community centre and the Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in the report, all as detailed in the appendix.
- The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.35 pm with Father McMahon, Rev Donaldson, Mr Macdougall, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting.**
- 204 Education 2014/15 Revenue Budget – Period 9 to 31 December 2014 204**
- 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 Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2014.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the projected underspend of £383,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2014.
- 205 Education Capital Programme 2014-2017 - Progress 205**
- 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 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; and
  - (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible on options for providing MUGA provision for both Gourrock and Moorfoot Primary Schools utilising the underspend in the MUGA allocation within the Capital Programme.
- 206 Governance Report for Externally Commissioned Services 206**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an annual update in respect of the governance of external organisations with which the Council has a significant financial relationship covering the period November 2013 to November 2014.
- Councillors McCabe and Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this item as members of the Board of Kilmacolm Community Centre Co Ltd and Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan declared a non-financial interest as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. All of the Members 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 the Committee note the content of the governance report.

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- 207 School Leaver Destination Results 2013-14 207**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information relating to the annual release of school leaver destination results.
- Decided:** that the content of the report and appendices be noted.
- 208 Education Standards and Quality Report 2013/14 208**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to consider and approve the Education Standards and Quality Report 2013/14.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee approve the content and publication of the Education Standards and Quality Report 2013/14 as set out in the appendix to the report; and
  - (2) that a briefing on attainment be arranged for Members and a report on this subject be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 209 Breakfast Clubs and Free School Meals P1-P3 209**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on (1) the initial stages of the implementation of the Universal Free School Meals Programme for P1-P3 pupils and (2) the current position with regard to Breakfast Club provision in Inverclyde primary schools.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the content of the report; and
  - (2) that the Committee consider the future development of Breakfast Clubs within Inverclyde.
- 210 Amendments to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010: School Closure Review Panels 210**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the arrangements for the School Closure Review Panels to take on their statutory duties from 30 March 2015 as part of the amendments to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the arrangements for the School Closure Review Panels to take on their statutory duties from 30 March 2015 as part of the amendments to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 211 School Transport Review 211**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to continue the interim arrangement for transport to St Columba's High School during session 2015/2016 until revised guidance on school consultation is issued by the Scottish Government.
- Following discussion, Councillor Loughran moved:
- (1) that it be noted that it is not appropriate for the Council to conclude the review on school transport until the revised guidance is issued by the Scottish Government;

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(2) that approval be given to the continuation of the interim transport arrangements for pupils at St Columba's High School until the implementation of the revised policy in August 2016 and agreement be given that the cost of £151,000 be contained within the Committee's overall 2015/16 Revenue Budget; and

(3) that it be noted that a report on the school transport review will be issued after the summer recess.

As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved that consideration be given to providing additional transport across the school secondary estate similar to that afforded to St Columba's High School pupils and that a report with financial implications be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

On a vote, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion which was declared carried.

**Decided:**

(1) that it be noted that it is not appropriate for the Council to conclude the review on school transport until the revised guidance is issued by the Scottish Government;

(2) that approval be given to the continuation of the interim transport arrangements for pupils at St Columba's High School until the implementation of the revised policy in August 2016 and agreement be given that the cost of £151,000 be contained within the Committee's overall 2015/16 Revenue Budget; and

(3) that it be noted that a report on the school transport review will be issued after the summer recess.

Councillor McCabe, Father McMahon, Mr Macdougall and Mr Thomson left the meeting at this point.

**212 Review of Outstanding Remits**

**212**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) reviewing the outstanding remits and (2) providing an update on the various items and, where appropriate, recommending action to be taken.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the updated position in regard to outstanding remits as set out in section 5 of the report.