

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 5 MAY 2015

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, 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), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Lead Officer Community Learning & Development, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Corporate Policy, Acting Head of Education, Ms L Wilkie and Mr G Manson (Education Services), Property Services 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.

334 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 334

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 (HEEPS Programme 2015 – 2016 and Update on Progress) – Councillor McCabe.

Agenda Item 23 (River Clyde Homes: Proposed Amendments to Memorandum and Articles of Association) – Councillors McCabe and McEleny.

335 Communities 2014/15 Revenue Budget Report – Period 11 to 28 February 2015 335

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 11 to 28 February 2015.

Decided: that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £258,000 for the 2014/15 Revenue Budget as at Period 11 to 28 February 2015.

336 Communities Capital Programme 2014 – 2016/17 336

There was submitted updated 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.

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the award of the Council's contribution to the capital funding of the Horticultural Training Centre and Community Facility at Broomhill, Greenock agreed at the meeting on 10 March 2015 to In-Work Enterprises Ltd, a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Inverclyde Association for Mental Health.

337 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 337

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities on the proposed regeneration of the Clune Park Area, 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 in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

338 HEEPS Programme 2015 – 2016 and Update on Progress 338

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities on the programme of works to be undertaken in 2015/16 utilising Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland: Area Based Schemes (HEEPS: ABS) funding from the Scottish Government.

Councillor McCabe 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:

- (1) that the Committee note the HEEPS: ABS Programme 2015 – 2016 as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.5 of the report together with the proposals for additional funding submitted by Inverclyde Council to the Scottish Government;
- (2) that the Committee note the progress to date of HEEPS: ABS projects across the Inverclyde Council area as detailed in paragraph 5.10 of the report; and
- (3) that the Committee note the success of Inverclyde Council in attracting substantial HEEPS: ABS investment for the benefit of both private owners and tenants of social rented properties.

339 Rankin Park – Mountain Bike Development Update 339

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee approve the progress of the project to tender stage; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to accept the most economically advantageous tender received.

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340 Rankin Park – Developing the Sport of Mountain Biking 340

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to progress with the development of the sport of mountain biking based at Rankin Park.

Decided:

- (1) that approval in principle be given to progress the development of mountain biking as a sport based at Rankin Park;
- (2) that the funding implications be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration; and
- (3) that in the meantime, schools within Inverclyde be consulted for their views on the proposed re-allocation of the outdoor education budget to the development of mountain biking.

341 Community Facilities Fund 341

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the eligibility criteria for the Community Facilities Fund and the process for the approval of applications.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the process for application to the Community Facilities Fund detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the eligibility criteria detailed in appendix 2 subject to appropriate alteration to the wording in the section entitled "Funding" to make it clear that while in normal course, the criteria set out in the paper will apply, in exceptional circumstances consideration will be given to larger projects provided resources for these are available.

342 Craigend Resource Centre – Update on Development Proposals 342

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking agreement to submit a bid to the next round of the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in support of the development proposals at Craigend Resource Centre, Greenock.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to apply to the next round of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund in support of the proposals to extend the facilities at Craigend Resource Centre.

343 Waivers Update Report 343

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for amendments to the sports waiver scheme.

(Councillor McEleny entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the proposals for the treatment of sports waivers for the current season detailed in section 7.1 of the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposals for amendments to the sports waiver scheme detailed in section 7.3; and

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(3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the practical issues involved in introducing a system of providing an allowance of hours to clubs.

344 Grants to Voluntary Organisations Fund 344

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the implementation of the proposals to improve the effectiveness and impact of resources associated with Grants to Voluntary Organisations (GTVO) funding agreed by the Committee on 21 January 2014.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in implementing the proposals agreed on 21 January 2014;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposals as detailed in annex 1 to the report; and
- (3) that details of all applications which have failed on technical grounds be included in a confidential appendix to the reports submitted to the Grants Sub-Committee.

345 McLean Museum/Watt Library 345

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee of available options following the unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund bid in respect of the McLean Museum/Watt Library in 2014 and (2) seeking approval for action in this regard.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the intention to undertake a detailed options appraisal which will inform the Council on how best to secure the McLean Museum/Watt Library building's future and develop Inverclyde's cultural offer;
- (2) that agreement be given to the appointment of a temporary consultant/specialist secondee for a period of three months to undertake the appraisal and that this be funded from the Budget Workplan Earmarked Reserve; and
- (3) that it be noted that officers will report back to the Committee in September 2015 on the outcome of the options appraisal.

346 Loan of Painting from McLean Museum – Arthur Melville 346

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of a request for the loan of a painting from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust).

Decided: that approval be given to the request for the loan of the painting "A Spanish Bullfight" by Arthur Melville to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh from October 2015 until January 2016 subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

347 Loan of Painting and Sculpture from McLean Museum – Mary Armour and Ivy Gardiner 347

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of a request for the loan of a painting and marble sculpture from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust).

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Decided: that approval be given to the request for the loan of the painting “Still Life with Pomegranate” by Mary Armour and the marble sculpture “Loving Birds or the Doves” by Ivy Gardiner to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh from November 2015 to July 2016 subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

348 River Clyde Homes: Proposed Amendments to Memorandum and Articles of Association 348

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to consider proposed amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of River Clyde Homes as part of its programme of modernisation and customer focus.

Councillors McCabe and McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes. 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 approval be given to the proposed changes to the River Clyde Homes Memorandum and Articles of Association as detailed in the report and its appendix.

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

349 Education Scotland Report on the Inspection of the Learning Community surrounding Clydeview Academy 349

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the findings of the report by Education Scotland following the inspection of the learning community surrounding Clydeview Academy. The report advised that of the four Indicators of Quality, one had been evaluated as “excellent” and three as “very good”.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the contents of the Education Scotland inspection report on the learning community surrounding Clydeview Academy; and
- (2) that the Committee’s appreciation be conveyed to all those involved for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

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 consider the Education Scotland evaluation at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

350 Education Scotland Report on Clydeview Academy 350

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland external evaluation of Clydeview Academy. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, three aspects of the school had been judged to be “very good” and two aspects to be “good”.

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Mr Willie Todd, Head Teacher, was present and spoke in relation to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the contents of the Education Scotland inspection report on Clydeview Academy; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all those involved for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

351 Education 2014/15 Revenue Budget – Period 11 to 28 February 2015 351

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 11 to 28 February 2015.

Decided: that the Committee note the projected underspend of £823,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at period 11 to 28 February 2015.

352 Education Capital Programme 2014 – 2017 – Progress 352

There was submitted an updated 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.

The Property Services Manager advised the Committee of the recent collapse of a section of the retaining wall at Ardgowan Primary School. He confirmed that a full update on the position would be provided to Members and stakeholders as soon as possible.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 be noted;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer to enter into the formal standard Hub West Scotland Project contract agreements for the St Patrick's Primary School project as detailed in section 7.2 of the report provided the cost is within the budget allocation for the project;
- (3) that approval be given to the utilisation of part of the projected MUGA budget underspend and Children and Young People Bill grant funding allocation to address the projected over expenditure on the Kilmacolm Primary School refurbishment project as detailed in paragraph 8.1 of the report;
- (4) that approval be given to the issue of tenders for the St Francis Primary School external works as outlined in section 13.1 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;
- (5) that it be noted that a report on the Early Years Estate Management Plan will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (6) that the position in respect of the Ardgowan Primary School project be noted.

353 Education & Communities Directorate Performance Report 353

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

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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 it be agreed to consider the sixth progress report at the first meeting of the Committee following the summer 2015 recess.

354 Use of Hand Held and Mobile Devices in Schools**354**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the findings of the pilot programme for the use of personal mobile and hand held ICT devices in Clydeview Academy.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the results of the Clydeview Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) pilot project;
- (2) that the Committee agree in principle to the roll out of the BYOD facility to all schools in Inverclyde and instruct that this is made available to secondary schools in the first instance;
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the financial implications of rolling out the project to primary schools;
- (4) that Standard Circular 9.5 be rescinded with the issue of the misuse of mobile devices being addressed within each establishment's behaviour policy and BYOD agreement; and
- (5) that a report on progress of the BYOD facility roll out be submitted to the Committee in due course.

355 600 Hours of Early Learning and Child Care**355**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) an update on the implementation of 600 hours of Early Learning and Child Care and (2) information on the resource and financial implications of the increase in entitlement.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in 2014/15;
- (2) that approval be given to the developments for 2015/16 as detailed in section 7; and
- (3) that agreement be given to the financial commitments as detailed in section 8 of the report.

356 Endowment Fund for Talented Children and Young People**356**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy seeking approval to use the "winding up" clause in the Deed of Trust in respect of Endowment for Talented Children and Young People.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report and approve the "winding up" of the Endowment Fund for Talented Children and Young People; and
- (2) that the endowment fund be disbursed to Head Teachers of Secondary Schools within Inverclyde on an equitable basis for disbursement to talented pupils through an application process.

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 consider the draft Improvement Plan in respect of the Scottish Attainment Challenge at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

357 The Scottish Attainment Challenge

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing the Committee with information on the Scottish Attainment Challenge and (2) seeking approval of the draft Improvement Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the update and approve the submission of the draft Improvement Plan attached as appendix 1 to the Scottish Government;
- (2) that it be remitted to the appropriate officers to report regularly to future meetings of the Committee on the progress of the programme; and
- (3) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer to implement the Improvement Plan within resources allocated by the Scottish Government.

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.

358 School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) – Result of Tenders for Contracts 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18

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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 2015/16.

Decided: that approval be given to the acceptance of the tenders as set out in appendix 1 to the report for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of school session 2015/16.