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**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**


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**Education and Communities Committee**
**Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 2pm**

**Present:** Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny and Shepherd, Mr T Macdougall, Rev F Donaldson and Father M McMahon, Religious Representatives and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

**Chair:** Councillor Loughran presided.

**In attendance:** Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Lead Officer, Community Learning & Development, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Property Services Manager, Head of Education 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.**

**550 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 550**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson and Mr R Thomson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**551 Communities 2015/16 Revenue Budget Report – Period 3 to 30 June 2015 551**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities and Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy (1) on the 2014/15 Revenue Budget final outturn and (2) the 2015/16 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2015.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the final outturn for 2014/15 and the current projected underspend of £70,000 for the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2015.

**552 Shelter Scotland's 'Make Renting Right' Campaign – Notice of Motion by Councillor McCabe 552**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising the Committee of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor McCabe, countersigned by Councillor Clocherty, submitted in terms of Standing Order 22 in the following terms:

Inverclyde Council welcomes Shelter Scotland's 'Make Renting Right' campaign and supports its call for reform of the private rented sector (14% of households in Inverclyde live in private rented sector accommodation, slightly higher than the Scottish average of 13%) and, in particular, reforms to provide tenants with greater security of tenure creating stability for people wanting to make rented housing their home, predictable

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rents for tenants and landlords, with no more than once a year rent increases and a fair system for sorting out renting problems.

**Decided:** that the Committee give its support to the terms of the Notice of Motion as set out above.

**553 Communities Capital Programme 2015-2018 553**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities and 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 Committee note the progress of the projects detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

**554 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 554**

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:** that the Committee note the current progress in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

**555 Grants to Voluntary Organisations: Proposals for the Disbursement of Unallocated Funds 555**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities making recommendations for approval for the disbursement of the remaining Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget for 2015 – 2016.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to the reasons for recommending refusal of a particular application. As this would potentially involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, it was agreed to resume consideration of the item in private session.

**556 International Women's Day 556**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities (1) advising the Committee of action taken to recognise formally and mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2015 and (2) seeking approval for proposed activities developed in support of International Women's Day in future years.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the activities put in place to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2015;

(2) that the Committee approve the proposals developed for activities to celebrate International Women's Day in future years specifically (a) the establishment of an International Women's Day Planning Group, (b) continuation and expansion of activities involving school pupils, (c) supporting women in the community to form a group to take forward issues identified and (d) submitting costed proposals for the expansion of activities;

(3) that Councillor Jones be appointed to serve on the International Women's Day Planning Group and that there continue to be Elected Member representation on the Planning Group in future years; and

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(4) that the costs associated with the proposals be identified as a budget pressure and remitted to the Members' Budget Working Group.

**557      Loan of Painting from McLean Museum      557**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy 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 for the loan of the painting 'The Strutted Close, Clydeside 1941' by Margaret Wright to the University of St Andrews until December 2015 subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

**558      Items for Noting – Communities      558**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing information for noting on (1) the Food Standards Scotland (FSS) Audit of Inverclyde Council, (2) the Official Food Controls Service Plan 2015/16, (3) the outdoor education school consultation, (4) the Local Housing Strategy, (5) a three year plan for co-ordination of community learning and development in Inverclyde and (6) the Community Learning and Development Service Annual Report 2014 – 2015.

**Decided:** that the report be 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 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.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph(s)</b>
<b>Closing Order – Mount Pleasant Street, Greenock</b>	<b>6 and 13</b>
<b>Grants to Voluntary Organisations: Proposals for the Disbursement of Unallocated Funds – Consideration of reasons for recommending refusal of application</b>	<b>6</b>

**559      Closing Order – Mount Pleasant Street, Greenock      559**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities seeking approval to make a Closing Order under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, on the first floor right (1/2) flat at 12 Mount Pleasant Street, Greenock PA15 4DD which is below the tolerable standard.

**Decided:** that it be agreed to make a Closing Order in terms of Section 114 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, as amended, prohibiting the use of flat 1/2, 12 Mount Pleasant Street, Greenock PA15 4DD for human habitation.

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**560 Grants to Voluntary Organisations: Proposals for the Disbursement of Unallocated Funds 560**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities on recommendations for the disbursement of the remaining Grants to Voluntary Organisations budget for 2015 – 2016.

During the course of discussion on this item, the Committee was advised of the reasons for refusal of the grant application from the organisation, Justice for the Silenced.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee approve the proposed disbursement of unallocated Grants to Voluntary Organisations funds as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Inverkip Community Association	£2,000 website, marketing, study visits	£600 towards website (conditional)
Greenock and District Angling Club	£1,500 for building work	£500 towards running costs
Justice for the Silenced	£660 for project launch	reject
Greenock United	£7,000 for minibus	reject
Newark Angling Club	£500 for running costs	£500
Kilmacolm Horticultural Society	£650 for website	£500 towards running costs
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,100</b>

and

(2) that potential future funding for Grants to Voluntary Organisations be identified as a budget pressure and referred to the Members' Budget Working Group.

**The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Father McMahon, Rev Donaldson, Mr Macdougall and Mr Tracey joining the meeting.**

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the ongoing illness of the former religious representative, Rev Andrew McLean, and asked that the Committee's thoughts be conveyed to Rev McLean and his family.

**561 Education Scotland Validated Self-Evaluation Report on Inverclyde Educational Psychology Services 561**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy advising the Committee of an Education Scotland external validated self-evaluation review of Inverclyde Educational Psychology Services (IEPS). The report advised that IEPS had received a very positive report from Education Scotland, that all areas of the service's self-evaluation had been validated and that Inspectors had high levels of confidence in the impact which the service makes to improving outcomes.

Ms Kate Watson, Principal Educational Psychologist, was present and spoke in relation to the evaluation process.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the report on Inverclyde Educational Psychology Services; and

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(2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all those involved in the evaluation process.

**562 Education 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 3 to 30 June 2015 562**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy and Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities on (1) the 2014/15 final outturn and (2) the 2015/16 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2015.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the final outturn for 2014/15;
- (2) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £236,000 for the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2015; and
- (3) that the Committee note the proposed £67,000 Modernisation Earmarked Reserve to be created from the P1 – P3 Free School Meals funding subject to a report to the Policy & Resources Committee.

**563 Education Capital Programme 2015 – 2018 - Progress 563**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education and 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; and
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to agree, execute and deliver the Design and Build Development Agreement for the Kilmacolm Primary School project as detailed in paragraph 8.2 of the report provided the cost is within the budget allocation for the project.

**564 Education, Communities & Organisational Development 564**  
**Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2013/16 – Annual Review 2015**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy seeking approval of the 2015 refresh of the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) 2013/16.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee approve the refreshed Education, Communities & Organisational Development CDIP 2013/16; and
- (2) that it be agreed that progress reports on the Directorate's performance indicators on implementation of the CDIP's improvement actions be submitted to every second meeting of the appropriate Committee.

**565 School Estate 2015 Core Facts Submission 565**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education providing an update on the School Estate and Core Facts return for 2015.

**Decided:** that the report be noted.

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- 566 Multi-Use Games Area Provision – Gourock and Moorfoot Primary Schools 566**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Education on options for providing Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) provision for both Gourock and Moorfoot Primary Schools utilising the underspend in the MUGA allocation within the Capital Programme.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the report on the possible options for MUGA provision at Gourock and Moorfoot Primary Schools;
  - (2) that approval be given to the proposals and it be agreed to progress the projects utilising the underspend in the MUGA allocation within the Capital Programme; and
  - (3) that a further report be submitted to the Committee on proposals for managing facilities to ensure equality of access across the school estate.
- 567 School Term Dates – Session 2016/17 567**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Education seeking approval for setting the school term dates for session 2016/17.
- Decided:** that approval be given to the term dates for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 568 Schools Transport Policy Review Update – Equality in Provision of School Transport for Inverclyde Schools 568**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy (1) providing an update on the review of the Schools Transport Policy, (2) setting out options in this regard and (3) proposing approval of Officers' recommendations.
- Decided:**
- (1) that a full formal consultation exercise on the Council's Schools Transport Policy be undertaken based on the preferred option of changing to 2.5 and 1.5 miles for secondary and primary schools respectively and including a poverty element at 1.5/1 miles, (option 3 in the report) and that the proposed implementation date for the new policy be August 2017; and
  - (2) that in the meantime, pending completion of the consultation process at (1) above, the current arrangements at St Columba's High School, Clydeview Academy and Inverkip Primary School remain unchanged.
- 569 Reinstatement/Replacement of the Retaining Wall at Ardgowan Primary School – Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive 569**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Education advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to issue an instruction in respect of the reinstatement/replacement of the partially collapsed retaining wall at Ardgowan Primary School to the main contractor, Central Building Contractors Limited, in the estimated amount of £250,000.
- Decided:** that the report be noted.

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**570      Appointment of Members to the Education Appeal Committee      570**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (1) advising the Committee of vacancies which exist on the Education Appeal Committee and (2) seeking approval of the appointment of two members of the public to these positions.

**Decided:** that Mrs Lesley Mahon and Mrs Christine Hall be appointed as Members of the Inverclyde Education Appeal Committee.

**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.**

Item	Paragraph(s)
<b>Education Appeal Committee - Appendix</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive – Award of Contracts for the Provision of Transport for Children with Additional Support and Medical Needs for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18</b>	<b>6 and 8</b>

**571      Education Appeal Committee - Appendix      571**

There was submitted an appendix to the report on the appointment of Members to the Education Appeal Committee providing biographical information on the two proposed appointees.

**Decided:** that the appendix be noted.

**572      Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive – Award of Contracts for the Provision of Transport for Children with Additional Support and Medical Needs for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18      572**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy advising of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to accept tenders for transport facilities for children with additional support and/or medical needs for school sessions 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to ongoing additions and deletions to transport requirements for pupils with additional support and medical needs estimated at £50,000.