

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 11 MARCH 2014

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, MacLeod (for Brooks), Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, McIlwee, 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 Head of Finance), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Service Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Libraries, Museums & Archives Manager, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Head of Education, Ms L Wilkie and Ms E Hamilton, Quality Improvement Managers, Education Services, Corporate Policy & Partnership Manager, Head of Property Assets & Facilities Management, Service Manager, School Estate and Mr M Bingham, (Corporate Communications).

Prior to the commencement of business, reference was made by the Convener to the fact that this would be Mr Henderson's last Committee meeting and he conveyed his best wishes for the future. He also welcomed to the meeting, Patricia Cassidy, the newly appointed Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development who was attending the meeting as an observer.

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

189 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Brooks, with Councillor MacLeod substituting, and Rev MacLean.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Monitoring Report February 2014 and Progress Report on Strategy Implementation) - Councillors McCabe, McEleny, McIlwee and Wilson.

Agenda Item 5 (Policy for the Granting of Waivers to Letting Charges for Sports and Community Facilities) - Councillor Campbell-Sturgess.

Agenda Item 9 (Inverclyde Leisure - Business Plan and Draft Funding Agreement for Indoor Leisure Facilities) - Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, McColgan and Loughran.

Agenda Item 10 (Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Report on Kilmacolm School and Nursery Class) - Councillor McCabe.

Agenda Item 15 (St Patrick's Primary School - Project Options) - Councillors McEleny and McIlwee.

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190 Communities 2013/14 Revenue Budget Report - Period 9 to 31 December 2013 and Capital Report 2013/16 - Progress 190

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the 2013/14 Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2013 and (2) the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2013/16 and the overall financial position.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £68,000 for the 2013/14 Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2013;
- (2) that the Committee note the progress of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme 2013/16; and
- (3) that approval be given to the virement of £15,000 within Safer Communities as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

191 Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Monitoring Report February 2014 and Progress Report on Strategy Implementation 191

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing monitoring information relative to the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy.

Councillors McCabe, McEleny and McIlwee declared non-financial interests 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 Housing Association. 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 Committee note the monitoring report to the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy Steering Group in February 2014 and the progress made in implementation of the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy to date;
- (2) that further progress reports on the implementation of the Local Housing Strategy be submitted to the Committee annually;
- (3) that representations be made to the Scottish Government Planning and Housing Ministers with the aim of imposing a legal requirement on developers to provide wheelchair/lifetime housing; and
- (4) that clarification be sought regarding the approach adopted by Glasgow City Council to the provision of wheelchair/lifetime housing.

192 Clune Park Regeneration Plan - Progress Report 192

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 progress to date and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Policy for the Granting of Waivers to Letting Charges for Sports and Community Facilities

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development proposing a new framework for agreeing and funding waivers to the standard letting charges for sports and leisure facilities managed by, or on behalf of, Inverclyde Council.

Councillor Campbell-Sturgess declared a non-financial interest in this matter as Chairman of 49F Greenock Air Training Corps. 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.

Following discussion, Councillor Loughran moved:

- (1) that approval be given to the categories of waivers to let contained in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the terms and conditions of the access and registration process for both community and sports organisations benefiting from discounted access to Council facilities, as detailed in Appendix 4;
- (3) that approval be given to the selection of option 3 of Appendix 3 (clubs given an allowance of hours based upon player/team numbers) resulting in approval of the terms and conditions of access for free under 19 sports club use detailed in Appendices 5 and 6;
- (4) that approval be given to the cessation of the current leisure pass scheme and its replacement with a scheme to be developed by Inverclyde Leisure;
- (5) that an update be submitted to the Committee in due course on any substantive changes recommended to the proposed terms and conditions arising from consultation with affected organisations;
- (6) that an update be submitted in due course on any detailed proposals for other sports as detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report; and
- (7) that an update report be submitted in due course on proposals for a discounted rate for adult teams making responsible, debt free use of facilities and for clubs participating in Community Sports Hubs.

As an amendment, Councillor McEleny moved that consideration of the matter be continued to the next meeting of the Committee to allow a public consultation exercise to be undertaken.

On a vote, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the categories of waivers to let contained in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) that approval be given to the terms and conditions of the access and registration process for both community and sports organisations benefiting from discounted access to Council facilities, as detailed in Appendix 4;
- (3) that approval be given to the selection of option 3 of Appendix 3 (clubs given an allowance of hours based upon player/team numbers) resulting in approval of the terms and conditions of access for free under 19 sports club use detailed in Appendices 5 and 6;
- (4) that approval be given to the cessation of the current leisure pass scheme and its replacement with a scheme to be developed by Inverclyde Leisure;

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(5) that an update be submitted to the Committee in due course on any substantive changes recommended to the proposed terms and conditions arising from consultation with affected organisations;

(6) that an update be submitted in due course on any detailed proposals for other sports as detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report; and

(7) that an update report be submitted in due course on proposals for a discounted rate for adult teams making responsible, debt free use of facilities and for clubs participating in Community Sports Hubs.

194 Review of Procedures for Grants to Voluntary Organisations - Delegated Authority for Decision 194

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising that the report on the review procedures for grants to voluntary organisations had been approved using the delegated authority granted by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2014.

Decided: that the Committee note the approval of the report on the review of procedures for grants to voluntary organisations.

195 Request for Loan of Paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery 195

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

Decided: that approval be given to the request for the loan of two paintings "The Strutted Close" and "Families on the Pier" by Margaret Wright to Kirkcudbright 2000 Ltd from 16 June to August 2014, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museums and Archives Manager.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be apprised of the change in fixed penalty notices for litter and fly tipping and additional information at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

196 Litter and Fly Tipping Fixed Penalties - Remit from Environment & Regeneration Committee 196

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources advising that the Environment & Regeneration Committee at its meeting on 6 March 2014 had considered a report on the change in fixed penalty notices in respect of litter and fly tipping and had remitted the report to the Education & Communities Committee for its interest, together with additional information relating to the number of fixed penalty notices issued in Inverclyde and the methods used to catch those who litter and/or fly tip.

Decided: that the Committee note, for its interest, the changes in fixed penalty notices in respect of litter and fly tipping and the additional information relating to the number of fixed penalty notices issued in Inverclyde and the methods used to catch those who litter and/or fly tip.

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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)
Clune Park Regeneration Plan Update - Structural Conditions	13
Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan and Draft Funding Agreement for Indoor Leisure Facilities	6

197 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Update - Structural Conditions 197

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of recent and significant developments in relation to a major structural defect in the tenement buildings in the Clune Park area and how this impacts on the current Regeneration Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council make Demolition Orders in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 on the houses listed in Appendix 3 to the report;
- (2) that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance, to agree a compensation plan for eligible owner-occupiers and tenants;
- (3) that it be noted that a short term working group will be set up with relevant Council services and external partners to address the re-housing needs of the owner-occupiers and tenants; and
- (4) that the Committee note the option of the use of compulsory purchase powers in respect of the acquisition of all 45 tenements in the area and it be agreed that a report both on this issue and also proposing an amended Regeneration Plan be submitted to the Committee as soon as is practicable.

198 Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan and Draft Funding Agreement for Indoor Leisure Facilities 198

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the Inverclyde Leisure Draft Business Plan and for delegated powers to Officers to enter into a new Funding Agreement for indoor leisure facilities with Inverclyde Leisure.

Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Loughran 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 Committee approve the draft Inverclyde Leisure Business Plan appended to the report; and

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(2) that delegated powers be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance, to enter into a new Funding Agreement based predominantly on the previous Funding Agreement with amendments as set out in the report and subject to consultation with Inverclyde Leisure.

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 5pm with Father McMahon, Rev Donaldson, Mr Thomson and Mr Tracey joining the meeting.

199 Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate Report on Kilmacolm School and Nursery Class 199

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the results of the Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate external evaluation of Kilmacolm Primary School and Nursery Class. The report advised that of the Indicators of Quality, 5 aspects of the school and nursery had been judged to be “very good”, two aspects as “good”, three aspects as “satisfactory”, one aspect as “adequate” and one aspect as “weak” and an explanation was given to the Committee for the “weak” grading.

Councillor McCabe declared a non-financial interest in this item as the parent of a pupil of 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 approve the report on Kilmacolm Primary School and Nursery Class; and
- (2) that the Committee’s appreciation be conveyed to all staff and pupils for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

200 Education 2013/14 Revenue Budget - Period 9 to 31 December 2013 200

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the Education Revenue Budget 2013/14 as at Period 9 to 31 December 2013 which projected an underspend of £82,000.

Decided: that the projected underspend of £82,000 for the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2013 be noted.

201 Education Capital Programme 2013 - 2015/16 - Progress 201

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: that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1.

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202 Education & Communities Performance Report 202

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on progress towards the achievement of key objectives as set out in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note that the report reflects the progress made by Education, Inclusive Education & Culture and Safer Communities Services in delivering the key objectives and performance targets as detailed in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan;
- (2) that it be noted that progress on delivering the remaining CDIP improvement actions which sit within Corporate Policy and Organisational Development, HR & Communications will be reported to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in a Corporate Services Performance Report; and
- (3) that it be noted that further progress reports will be submitted to every second meeting of the Education & Communities Committee.

203 Update on Progress with the Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence 203

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information on progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

Decided: that the Committee note the ongoing progress being made with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence in Inverclyde.

204 St Patrick's Primary School - Project Options 204

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update in respect of options for progressing the St Patrick's Primary School project which has funding support from the latest round of the Scottish Government Schools for the Future Programme.

Councillors McEleny and McIlwee declared non-financial interests in this item as former pupils of St Patrick's Primary School. Each Member formed the view that the nature of his interest and of the item did not preclude his continued presence in the Chamber or his participation in the decision making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the options for the project as outlined in the report and approve the progression of the new build option; and
- (2) that the Committee note and approve the proposed procurement route via Hub West Scotland Limited.

205 Increase in Nursery Entitlement to 600 Hours 205

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing details of the implementation of the increase in the entitlement of nursery provision from 475 hours to 600 hours for children from August 2014, (2) providing information on the resource requirements and financial implications of the increase in entitlement and (3) advising Members of the increase in entitlement for 2 year olds from workless households.

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Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the model for delivery of 600 hours of provision as of August 2014, described in the report;
- (2) that it be agreed that further flexibility be developed in future years ensuring equality of provision across Inverclyde;
- (3) that agreement be given to the financial commitments as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the implications of the increase in entitlement for 2 year olds from workless households be noted; and
- (5) that it be noted that a detailed report on 2 year olds from workless households will be submitted to the Committee in May 2014.

206 Transport Policy Review**206**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to continue the interim transport arrangements for St Columba's High School with a view to reviewing mileage limits and/or introducing charging by August 2015.

Decided: that approval be given to continue with the current arrangements until mileage limits and/or appropriate charging proposals can be considered by February 2015.

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.

207 Education Capital Programme 2013-2015/16 Progress - Addendum**207**

There was submitted addendum report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Head of Finance providing an update in respect of the status of the Ardgowan Primary School project.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note and approve the proposed additional expenditure on the Ardgowan Primary School project;
- (2) that approval be given to the utilisation of the overall SEMP funding model and part Capital Programme Contingency Allowance to address the over expenditure; and
- (3) that subject to there being no challenge during the standstill period, approval be given to the acceptance of the tender from Central Building Contractors Limited in the amount of £5.853M including all associated direct costs and the issue of a formal letter of acceptance by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

Following the conclusion of business, Mr Tracey paid tribute, on behalf of the Committee, to Mr Henderson's many years of service and commitment to Education Services within Inverclyde and extended his best wishes to him for a long and happy retirement.