

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 3 NOVEMBER 2015

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, 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: Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Mr H Scott (Community Learning & Development), Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Ms G Bergin (Libraries & Museum), Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr C Given (Finance Services), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Property Services Manager, Head of Education and Mr R Lamb (Education Services).

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

720 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 720

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McEleny.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2015 to 2018) – Councillor McCabe.
 Agenda Item 4 (Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report) – Councillor Wilson.
 Agenda Item 5 (Strategic Housing – Strategic Local Programme 2015-2018) – Councillor McCabe.
 Agenda Item 14 (Inverclyde Leisure – Annual Report) – Councillors Campbell-Sturgess, Clocherty and McColgan.

721 Communities 2015/16 Revenue Budget Report – Period 5 to 31 August 2015 721

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities and Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy on the 2015/16 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 5 to 31 August 2015.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £140,000 for the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2015; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £80,000 as detailed in appendix 5 of the report.

722 Communities Capital Programme 2015 - 2018 722

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.

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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 progress of the specific projects as detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the use of up to £25,000 from the allocation for the Woodhall Community Facility to enable the purchase of the required land.

723 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report**723**

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.

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 in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and agree that further progress updates be submitted to future meetings; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the impact of the strategy of rehousing out of the Clune Park estate, including an assessment of the needs of the remaining population.

724 Strategic Housing – Strategic Local Programme 2015-2019**724**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on changes to the Strategic Local Programme 2015-2019 as a result of the new Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020.

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: that the Committee note the projects included in the Strategic Local Programme 2015-2019 as detailed in the appendix to the report.

725 National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019 – Outcomes and Implementation Model**725**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities advising of the publication of national outcomes and an implementation model in support of 'Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Chances of Young People in Scotland: National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019'.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the publication of national outcomes and an implementation model in support of 'Our Ambitions for Improving the Life Chances of Young People in Scotland: National Youth Work Strategy 2014-2019';
- (2) that the Committee note the progress made within Inverclyde towards the achievement of the ambitions of the Strategy and the youth work outcomes associated with it; and

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(3) that the Committee endorse the National Youth Work Strategy and associated outcomes and give approval for these linkages to be reflected within the '3 Year Plan for Co-ordinating Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde 2015-2018'.

726 Watt Complex Refurbishment – Project Development

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy informing the Committee of the progress which has been made to date on the work of consultants in considering future options for the Watt Complex, Greenock.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to the fact that, as indicated in the report, applications with a combined development and delivery request of £2m or more are decided on by the Heritage Lottery Fund Board of Trustees and that the Watt Complex project bid of £3m would enter into that UK wide competitive arena. A further option available would be to bid in two separate tranches comprising an initial £2m bid followed by a further £1m bid if necessary, thus keeping the funding bid within the Scottish criteria.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee approve (a) progressing the Watt Complex refurbishment project in line with a two phased approach as set out in Option 3, (b) the early implementation work to repair the external fabric and the delegation of authority to the Head of Legal & Property Services to appoint external consultants to develop, design and oversee the implementation of the essential works and (c) the development and submission of a revised Heritage Lottery Fund bid in line with Option 3; and

(2) that the decision above be referred for noting to the Inverclyde Council as Trustees of the Watt Institution.

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.

727 Gibshill Community Centre – Revenue Support

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities requesting the Committee to consider the allocation of revenue funding to support the operation of the new Community Centre at Gibshill, Greenock.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer to agree the final business plan with Gibshill Community Centre and to provide revenue funding support of £9,555 for the current financial year up to £32,000 per year for two years from April 2016.

728 Inverclyde Leisure – Annual Report

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities appending the first annual review of Inverclyde Leisure's three year Business Plan 2014-17 for approval.

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

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their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

Decided: that approval be given to the Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report 2014/15 as appended to the report.

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

Prior to the commencement of business the Convener referred to the recent death of Rev Andrew McLean who had served for a number of years as a religious representative on the Committee. He expressed his appreciation for Rev McLean's contribution to the work of the Committee and, on behalf of those present, asked that his condolences be conveyed to Rev McLean's family.

The Convener also referred to the recent death in a road traffic accident of St Andrew's Primary School pupil Robbie Quigg and he extended his condolences to Robbie's family and also the wider school community. The Committee then observed a minute's silence in memory of Robbie.

729 Education 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 5 to 31 August 2015

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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 the position of the 2015/16 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2015.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £214,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2015; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £12,000 as detailed in appendix 5 of the report.

730 Education Capital Programme 2015-2018 - Progress

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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.

(Rev Donaldson entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1; and
- (2) that the Committee note the review of the School Estate Funding Model which is a separate item on the agenda.

731 Education & Communities Directorate Performance Report

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

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in implementing the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan

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2013/16; and

(2) that it be agreed to consider the seventh progress report at the meeting of the Committee on 8 March 2016.

732 Review of School Estate Funding Model 2015

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Education and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing an update on the current position of the School Estate Funding Model and (2) seeking approval of the revised model.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee approve the revised Funding Model and the associated changes/revisions as highlighted in sections 4 and 5 of the report;

(2) that the Committee note the summary of the current condition and suitability of the properties contained in appendix 3 and approve the proposed programme for the primary school refurbishment to 2020 as detailed in paragraph 4.5; and

(3) that the Committee note that the financial implications of the revised model will be built into the Council's revised Financial Strategy due to be submitted to the Council in December 2015.

733 Developing Inverclyde's Young Workforce

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy providing an update on the implementation of Developing Scotland's Young Workforce – Scotland's Youth Employment Strategy.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the content of the report and that updates on future implementation will be submitted to the Committee;

(2) that it be noted that a Steering Group has been established with all key stakeholders represented and that further consideration will be given to any appropriate additions to the representation on the Group;

(3) that it be noted that a local delivery plan is in progress following school consultations;

(4) that it be noted that discussions are underway to maximise the budget allocation; and

(5) that support be given to the implementation of developing Inverclyde's Young Workforce Plan.