

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 2pm

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

Chair: Councillor Loughran presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager, Health Protection Service Manager, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr C Given (Finance Services), Head of Education, Property Services Manager, Ms L Wilkie (Education Services) 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.

46 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 46

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors McEleny and Wilson and Mr Thomson.

Councillor McCabe declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Stock Transfer Agreement – Support for Owners Funding Update).

47 Communities 2015/16 Revenue Budget Report – Period 7 to 31 October 2015 47

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2015/16 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 7 to 31 October 2015.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £193,000 in the 2015/16 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2015; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virement of £7,000 as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.

48 Communities Capital Programme 2015 to 2018 48

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:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

(2) that the Committee endorse the recommendation of the Members' Budget Working Group in respect of an additional allocation of £100,000 from free reserves to the Birkmyre Park Pitch improvement project and that this matter be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration as part of the 2016/18 budget process.

49 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 49

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

50 Empty Homes Initiative 50

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on the development of an Inverclyde Empty Homes Initiative.

Decided: that the Committee note the development of an Inverclyde Empty Homes Initiative and approve the proposed scheme as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

51 Private Sector Housing – 'Missing Shares' Protocol and Guidance 51

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities seeking the Committee's approval of a protocol and associated guidance to support owners of common property to repair and maintain their homes through the payment of 'missing shares' which will form part of the Council's ongoing approach to tackling housing disrepair in Inverclyde.

Decided: that the Committee approve the proposed protocol and guidance as set out in section 5 and the appendix to the report.

52 Stock Transfer Agreement – Support for Owners Funding Update 52

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities on the current position regarding the Support for Owners Fund generated from the sale of River Clyde Homes' stock under the Right to Buy Scheme.

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 updated position in respect of the Support for Owners Fund and the potential funding underspend for the 2015/16 financial year.

53 Delegated Powers 53

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

Decided: that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

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)
Public Space CCTV	6 and 8
Service of Closing Order under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987	6
Grant Funding for Community Based Services	6
Additional Item:	
Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) Horticultural Training Centre and Community Centre, Broomhill	6

54 Public Space CCTV 54

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the available options for the continued operation of public space CCTV by Inverclyde Council and the Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in the report, all as detailed in the Appendix.

55 Service of Closing Order under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 55

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities advising the Committee of the use of delegated authority to make a Closing Order on the second floor left flat (2/1), 7 East William Street, Greenock PA15 4TD.

Decided: that the Committee note the use of delegated authority by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development to make a Closing Order in respect of the second floor left flat (2/1), 7 East William Street, Greenock PA15 4TD.

56 Grant Funding for Community Based Services 56

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising the Committee that grant funding for community services had been reviewed and (2) seeking approval for recommendations for future funding which were agreed, all as detailed in the Appendix.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the action recommended, if approved, to be progressed at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

57 Inverclyde Association for Mental Health (IAMH) Horticultural Training Centre and Community Centre, Broomhill 57

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the current position with regard to Inverclyde Association for Mental Health's proposals in respect of a horticultural training centre and community centre in Broomhill, Greenock and (2) seeking approval for an increase in the Council's contribution to the project, subject to agreement by the Policy & Resources Committee.

Decided:

(1) that agreement be given to virement of £300,000 of the £400,000 currently allocated to community facilities investment in Woodhall to the new community facility at Broomhill (IAMH), both projects being within the current Communities Capital Programme, to enable this project to progress and that the matter be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval; and

(2) that the Woodhall Tenants' Association be consulted on proposals for future suitable projects which can be considered in the Capital Programme beyond 2016/18.

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

58 Care Inspections of Early Learning and Childcare Establishments 58

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the quality of Inverclyde Council's Early Learning and Childcare establishments as evidenced by Care Inspectorate inspections.

Decided:

(1) that the report be noted; and

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

59 Education 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 7 to 31 October 2015 59

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the position of the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2015.

Decided:

(1) that the Committee note the projected underspend of £433,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 7 to 31 October 2015; and

(2) that approval be given to the virement of £30,000 from Inclusive Education to Education Services as detailed in appendix 5 of the report.

60 Education Capital Programme 2015-2018 – Progress 60

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2016

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) that the Committee note the review of the School Estate Management Plan and options for acceleration including investment required across the Early Years Estate which are the subject of a separate report on the agenda; and
- (3) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to negotiate a settlement of the claims arising from the damage to the wall at St John's Primary School and to progress this with the contractor for the refurbishment project and complete the necessary renewal works as early as is practical.

61 Increase in Entitlement to Early Learning and Childcare 61

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information on the Scottish Government's plan to increase the entitlement to Early Learning and Childcare.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report; and
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Committee with detailed information in due course.

62 Raising Attainment in Maths and Numeracy 62

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education providing an update on the measures in place to raise attainment in maths and numeracy for all pupils and to close the attainment gap linked to deprivation.

(Father McMahan entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report and the current attainment in maths and numeracy in Inverclyde; and
- (2) that the Committee note the ongoing developments and next steps to raise attainment in maths and numeracy and to close the attainment gap linked to deprivation.

63 School Term Dates – Session 2017/18 63

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education seeking approval for the setting of school term dates for session 2017/18.

Decided: that approval be given to the term dates for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

64 Items for Noting 64

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information for noting on (1) the Scottish Qualification Authority Star Award and (2) Inverclyde young people's achievement in winning the British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Award.

Decided: that the report be noted.

65

School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) 2020 – Acceleration Options

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer on the review of the current School Estate Management Plan and Funding Model, addressing the request to investigate the feasibility of completion of the current programme and the works required across the Early Years Estate by 2020.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the review of the remaining School Estate Management Plan projects and works required across the Early Years Estate and the options for delivery by 2020;
- (2) that the Committee note the scenarios presented and the relative financial implications of both; and
- (3) that Option 1 be agreed as the preferred option and that the proposals be remitted to the budget process.