

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2016**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 2pm**

**Present:** Councillors Brennan, Brooks, MacLeod (for Campbell-Sturgess), Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McColgan, McEleny, Shepherd and Wilson, Mr T Macdougall and Rev. 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, 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, Mr D Smith (Education Services) and Property Services Manager.

**In attendance also:** Mr Gary Johnstone, HM Inspector for Education in Scotland, as an observer for the Education items only.

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

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| <b>179</b> | <b>Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>  | <b>179</b> |
|            | An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Campbell-Sturgess with Councillor MacLeod substituting.  |            |
|            | Councillor MacLeod declared an interest in agenda item 3 (Communities Capital Programme 2015 to 2018) and Councillor Wilson declared an interest in agenda item 4 (Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report).   |            |
| <b>180</b> | <b>Communities 2015/16 Revenue Budget Report – Period 9 to 31 December 2015</b>   | <b>180</b> |
|            | There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2015/16 Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2015.   |            |
|            | <b>Decided:</b> that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £312,000 in the 2015/16 Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2015.  |            |
| <b>181</b> | <b>Communities Capital Programme 2015 to 2018</b>   | <b>181</b> |
|            | 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. |            |

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Councillor MacLeod declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Member of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. He also formed the view that the nature of his interest and 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 of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

### 182 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report 182

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.

During the course of discussion on this item, Councillor McCabe suggested that it would be useful for a further review of the occupancy levels in Clune Park to be carried out for submission to a future meeting of the Task Group.

**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.

### 183 Housing Renewal Areas – Identification and Prioritisation 183

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities seeking the Committee's approval of a procedure for the identification and prioritisation of Housing Renewal Areas which will form part of the Council's approach to tackling housing disrepair by encouraging and supporting effective property repair and maintenance of housing in Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the reasons for the procedure outlined in the report as part of an overall approach to tackling housing disrepair and improving maintenance regimes; and
- (2) that the Committee approve the proposed policy set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

### 184 Delegated Powers 184

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 Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Act 2016.

Following discussion, Councillor McCabe moved that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Act 2016 as outlined in the report. As an amendment, Councillor Wilson moved that it be remitted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to examine the feasibility of granting the enforcement powers to officers other than the uniformed Council staff as suggested in the report and that this be the subject of a further report to the next meeting of the Committee. On a vote, 1 Member voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion which was declared carried.

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**Decided:** that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities to authorise officers under the Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Act 2016 as outlined in the report.

### 185 **Watt Complex Refurbishment – Proposed Amendment** 185

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on a proposed amendment to the Watt Complex refurbishment project approved by the Committee on 3 November 2015, following a recommendation from the Members' Budget Working Group.

**Decided:** that Standing Orders be suspended and that the Committee approve the proposed amendment to the Watt Complex project as detailed in the report which will in turn free up funds to help address the Council's funding gap for 2017/18.

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

### 186 **Rev. Michael McMahon** 186

The Convener referred to the fact that this would be Rev. McMahon's final meeting following his resignation as the Roman Catholic Church representative on the Committee. It was noted that Mrs Frances Gilpin had been nominated to serve as the Church's representative in Rev. McMahon's place.

On behalf of the Committee, the Convener thanked Rev. McMahon for his 10 years of service and wished him every success in his continued role as Educational Director for the Diocese of Paisley.

### 187 **Education 2015/16 Revenue Budget – Period 9 to 31 December 2015** 187

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2015/16 Education Revenue Budget position as at Period 9 to 31 December 2015.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the projected underspend of £894,000 in the Education Revenue Budget as at Period 9 to 31 December 2015.

### 188 **Education Capital Programme 2015 – 2018 - Progress** 188

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 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 the Committee note that a final decision on the School Estates Acceleration Plan will be taken as part of the 2016/18 budget on 10 March 2016.

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- 189 School Leaver Destination Results 2014 - 15 189**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information relating to the annual release of school leaver destination results.
- Decided:** that the Committee note the contents of the report.
- 190 Implementation of Credit Unions for all S1 Pupils 190**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the introduction of a Credit Union account for all pupils in S1 from 2016/2017.  
(Councillor McEleny left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the implementation of Credit Union accounts for every S1 pupil and the associated ongoing spend proposals for this; and
  - (2) that the Committee note the financial support for a test school to set up its own Credit Union bank and to provide ongoing support to the project.
- 191 Scottish Attainment Challenge 191**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information on the progress and impact of the Attainment Challenge within Inverclyde.  
(Councillor McEleny returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).
- Decided:** that the Committee note the ongoing progress of the Scottish Attainment Challenge project within Inverclyde.