

Education and Communities Committee**Tuesday 6 September 2016 at 2pm**

Present: Councillors Brennan, Brooks, MacLeod (for Campbell-Sturgess – for Education items only), Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McCormick (for McColgan), McEleny, Shepherd and Wilson, Rev F Donaldson and Mr J Docherty (for Mrs F Gilpin), 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 and Wellbeing 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), Property Services Manager, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Ms M Paterson and Mr H Scott (Community Learning & Development), Ms M McFarlane and Ms E Hamilton (Education Services).

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

490 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**490**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Campbell-Sturgess, with Councillor MacLeod substituting for the Education items only, Councillor McColgan, with Councillor McCormick substituting, and Mrs F Gilpin, with Mr J Docherty substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 4 (Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report) – Councillor Wilson.
Agenda Item 15 (Draft Revised Policy for Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools) – Councillor McEleny.

491 Communities 2016/17 Revenue Budget Report – Period 3 to 30 June 2016**491**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the 2015/16 Communities Revenue Budget final out-turn and (2) the 2016/17 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2016.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the final out-turn for 2015/16;
- (2) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £20,000 for the 2016/17 Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2016; and
- (3) that information on historical expenditure by the Council on legal fees and home loss payments in connection with the Clune Park Regeneration Project be provided to all Councillors on the Committee.

492 Communities Capital Programme 2016 to 2018**492**

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 with the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and the projected acceleration of £452,000 or 16.6% expenditure;

(2) that the Committee homologate the action taken and expenditure incurred in respect of the emergency works to the Watt Complex, as detailed in Paragraph 6.1; and

(3) that the Committee welcome the award of £297,000 from Historic Environment Scotland's Building Repair Grants Scheme towards the repair work at the Watt Complex.

493 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report**493**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities providing an update on the proposed regeneration of the Clune Park Area, Port Glasgow. Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest in this matter as a Director of Link Housing Association and its subsidiary, Larkfield 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. The Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities made a statement to the Committee relative to the judgement of the Sheriff on 22 August 2016 in respect of 6 appeals. He indicated that Officers were taking legal advice on the issue and that a full report would be made to a private session of the Committee in due course.

Decided:

(1) 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 the Committee; and

(2) that it be noted that a report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the result of the legal consultations arising from the decision of the Sheriff in respect of 6 appeals and how it is proposed to progress with the Council's statutory duty to tackle sub-standard housing within the Clune Park Estate.

494 Funding for Inverclyde's iYouth Zones**494**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising of the projected funding shortfall from 2016/17 onwards for iYouth Zone funding and (2) recommending the use of free reserves to fund iYouth Zones for 2017/18, with the funding beyond that to be considered as part of the overall review of community facilities.

Decided:

(1) that agreement be given to the use of £180,000 from free reserves to meet the 2017/18 shortfall for iYouth Zones;

(2) that the matter be remitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration; and

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(3) that thereafter, consideration be given to the future funding of iYouth Zones as part of the wider review of community facilities.

495 Item for Noting: CLD Service Annual Report 2015-2016 495

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing information, for noting, on the CLD Service Annual Report 2015-2016, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the CLD Service Annual Report 2015-2016 be noted; and
- (2) that the CLD Service be commended for the work undertaken in the reporting period.

The Communities business concluded at 2.45 pm.

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

496 Education Scotland Report on Inverkip Primary School and Nursery Class 496

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of an Education Scotland (HMIE) external evaluation of Inverkip Primary School and Nursery Class using the 4th edition of "How good is our school?".

Ms Mhairi Crossan, Acting Head Teacher, was present and spoken in relation to the evaluation process.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report on Inverkip Primary School and Nursery Class; and
- (2) that the Committee's congratulations be extended to the school for the findings arising from the evaluation process.

497 Education Scotland Report on Craigmarloch School, Port Glasgow 497

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of an Education Scotland (HMIE) external evaluation of Craigmarloch School.

The report advised that of the indicators of quality, one aspect of the school had been judged to be "good", two aspects to be "satisfactory" and two aspects to be "weak".

Mr George Walker, the newly appointed Head Teacher, was present and spoke in relation to the findings of the evaluation process and the action proposed to address the issues identified.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report on Craigmarloch School; and
- (2) that a report on the progress made in addressing the issues identified in the evaluation report be submitted to the Committee in 6 months' time.

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498 Education 2016/17 Revenue Budget – Period 3 to 30 June 2016 498

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on (1) the 2015/16 Education Revenue Budget final out-turn and (2) the 2016/17 Revenue Budget position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2016.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the final out-turn for 2015/16;
- (2) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £131,000 for the 2016/17 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2016; and
- (3) that the Committee approve the virement of £25,000 as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report.

499 Education Capital Programme 2016-2018 Progress 499

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 of the report; and
- (2) that the Committee note the additional expenditure on the Kilmacolm Primary School project and utilisation of the Capital Programme Lifecycle Fund as set out in paragraph 6.2.

500 Duke of Edinburgh Award in Inverclyde 500

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the successes and achievements of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Inverclyde.

Mr Alex Cummings, Assistant Director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scotland, was present and spoke on the successes achieved in Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the recent successes and achievements of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Inverclyde;
- (2) that the Committee's thanks to the Inverclyde Duke of Edinburgh Support Group be formally recorded; and
- (3) that it be agreed to accept the five year licence to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Award on behalf of Inverclyde Council.

501 Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan Performance Report 501

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the achievement of key objectives in the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP) 2016/19.

(Councillors Wilson and Clocherty left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

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Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress made in implementing the Education, Communities & Organisational Development Corporate Director Improvement Plan 2016/19; and
- (2) that it be agreed that a second progress report be submitted to the Committee in January 2017.

502 Attainment Challenge Update**502**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update in respect of progress and the impact of the Attainment Challenge in Inverclyde.

(Councillors Clocherty and Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the ongoing progress of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Project within Inverclyde; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the implementation of the National Improvement Framework.

503 Teacher Numbers for the Academic Year 2016/17**503**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development setting out the anticipated position for Inverclyde in relation to the 2016 census on teacher numbers and the requirement to maintain the Pupil/Teacher Ratio at 13.5.

Decided: that the Committee note the current position in Inverclyde with regard to maintaining the Pupil/Teacher Ratio for the September 2016 census.

504 Draft Revised Policy for Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools**504**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for proposed changes to the 2009 Policy on Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools.

Councillor McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as the relative of an individual potentially affected by the proposals. 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 report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to undertake a consultation in terms of the School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the draft revised Policy for Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools as set out in the report, but subject to amendment to Paragraph 1.9 (4) under Section D (Making a Placing Request) by the deletion of the words “and a supporting letter from the Church”; and
- (3) that the results of the consultation exercise be submitted to the Committee in January 2017.

- 505 School Transport Review – Proposals for Formal Consultation 505**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of a proposed programme for statutory consultation on increasing the mileage limits for free school mainstream transport which will apply to all schools across Inverclyde.
- Decided:** that the Committee approve the proposed programme and associated timescale relating to the undertaking of a statutory consultation on proposed changes to the provision of mainstream school transport, as detailed in the report.
- 506 School Estate 2016 Core Facts Submission 506**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the School Estate and Core Facts return for 2016.
- Decided:**
- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report; and
 - (2) that the Committee's appreciation be extended to the Officers involved.
- 507 Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive – Playground Resurfacing and Drainage Repairs at Kilmacolm Primary School 507**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to issue an instruction in respect of resurfacing works to the playground and essential repairs to the underground foul and surface water drainage systems at Kilmacolm Primary School.
- Decided:** that the use of the emergency powers procedure be noted.