

EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2017

Education & Communities Committee

Monday 23 January 2017 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Brennan, Brooks, MacLeod, (for Campbell-Sturgess), Clocherty, Jones, Loughran, McCabe, McCormick (for McColgan), McEleny, Shepherd and Wilson, Rev F Donaldson and Mrs F Gilpin, Church Representatives and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Loughran presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Education, Head of Inclusive Education, Culture & Corporate Policy, Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Mr N Duffy (Legal & Property Services) and Corporate Communications Manager.

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

62 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McColgan, with Councillor McCormick substituting, Councillor Campbell-Sturgess, with Councillor MacLeod substituting and Mr R Thomson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

63 Statutory Consultation on the School Transport Review

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing members of the outcome of the recent statutory consultation on changes to the Council's school transport provision.

After discussion, Councillor Loughran moved that having considered the statutory consultation outcome report, the status quo be retained, including existing interim arrangements.

As an amendment, Councillor McEleny moved that the status quo be retained, including existing interim arrangements, but that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee giving the financial implications of applying further enhancements to other schools in Inverclyde.

As a further amendment, Councillor Wilson moved that (1) the Education & Communities Committee address the issue of inequality of provision that currently exists for pupils in St Columba's High School, some pupils in Clydeview Academy and some pupils who live in Inverkip through approving that the current school transport policy is implemented across all Inverclyde schools from August 2017 and (2) that the '2/1 model' for free school transport be retained.

On a vote between the 2 amendments, 1 member, Councillor Wilson, voted for his further amendment and 5 members, Councillors Brooks, Jones, MacLeod, McEleny and Mr Tracey voted for the amendment by Councillor McEleny. 8 Members, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McCormick, Shepherd, Mrs Gilpin and Rev Donaldson abstained from voting.

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Councillor Wilson's amendment, having received fewer votes, then fell.

On a vote between the motion and the amendment by Councillor McEleny, 7 members, Councillors Brooks, Jones, MacLeod, McEleny, Wilson, Mr Tracey and Rev Donaldson voted for the amendment and 7 members, Councillors Brennan, Clocherty, Loughran, McCabe, McCormick, Shepherd and Mrs Gilpin voted for the motion. There being equality in voting, the Convener exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion, which was declared carried.

Decided: that having considered the statutory consultation outcome, the status quo be retained, including the existing interim arrangements.